ABOVE: A special day out for Ogmore pupils. (See page 14 for details).

Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM

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The tough choices facing council as budget pressures bite in Bridgend

HARD choices will have to be made by Bridgend county borough councillors as they struggle with the budget for the next financial year.

A report to cabinet has revealed that the council faces huge spending pressures in the budget for looked-after children, where it is estimated an extra £1million will be needed to pay for independent foster placements for children.

Meanwhile, increasing demand for adult social care as a result of the ageing population will add a further £540,000 to that bill.

The demand for these services is expected to rise by two per cent year-on-year for the next five years.

The council also faces having to find an extra £320,000 to pay the fees for residential and nursing homes.

In total, the council has to find a further £3.6million next year over and above what it needs now to provide services.

The cabinet also received a report showing ways of cutting spending next year.

Some of the options being considered include:

- Increasing the cost of school meals by 10p a day for primary children to £1.70p;
- Reducing the number of road sweeping vehicles;
- Renegotiating the waste services contract;
- Increasing charges for trade waste;
- Converting Tremains Road car park into a short stay one to maximise income;
- Possible extension to the street lighting pilot scheme under which lights are dimmed or switched off.

Bryngarw House is to be looked at with a view to removing the current subsidy it receives from the council.

The report says that the most likely option was a long-term lease of a joint venture with a specialist provider.

But it would need expert marketing advice.

The libraries may also be "reconfigured" – which could mean closure of some branches, although this is not spelled out.

A report is due out early in 2010 which will be examining the effectiveness of some smaller libraries, because resources are spread too thinly across too many.

Officers warn that there could be a negative impact on local service provision of things such as children's literacy schemes if libraries are closed.

The council will also review arts venues in the borough and the grants it gives to arts organisations.

The review will look at the suitability and sufficiency of existing venues.

The possibility of transferring community centres to community groups will also be explored.

A clamp-down on absenteeism is expected to produce savings of £55,000 as fewer casual staff will need to be taken on to provide cover, and the need for overtime will also reduce.

The cabinet has made no final decisions yet about how to make savings. There will be a further report in the new year.

Fed up with diamonds? Choose a different Christmas present this year!

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Traders meet on regeneration of Maesteg market

A MEETING has taken place with market traders to discuss the regeneration of Maesteg's outdoor market.

This work is due to be carried out as Phase 4 of the Maesteg regeneration scheme, and consultants Powell Dobson have been appointed to prepare a design for both the market and the adjoining bus station.

Traders who attended were invited to put forward their views about what should be done to regenerate the market, which underwent a disastrous revamp in the early 1990s under the Valleys Initiative.

Consultants will now go away and draw up some tentative proposals which will be further discussed with traders before plans are prepared to go out for public consultation.

Issues about land ownership were raised at the meeting, as some of the shops along the edge of the outside market are privately-owned and do not come under the control of the council, which owns the rest of the market.

WELL DONE, SCHOOL!

ABOVE:
Mynydd Cynffig Junior School has recently received a glowing inspection report. Carwyn Jones AM and Madeleine Moon MP joined the chair of the school governors Mrs Greta Rogers, Rev Richard Spencer, Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Kenfig Hill, headteacher Neil Davies, and some of the school's pupils, to celebrate the news. (See page 7 for a report and more photographs by KEITH E MORGAN).

£10 million bid revealed to upgrade town centre

A FURTHER £10million may be spent on the regeneration of Bridgend town centre.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has put in a bid for EU funding of £7million for a further phase of work, which will leave the council to plug the gap of almost £3million from other sources.

This time, the work will be concentrated on parts of the town centre that have not been upgraded yet.

Work is proposed for Cheapside where £2million will be spent. This area is much busier since ASDA opened nearby.

A further £6.5million will be spent improving Court Road, the southern end of Nolton Street and the northern part of Merthyrmawr Road.

There are also plans to spend money 'enhancing' the river, which is due to cost another £1.4million. Earlier attempts at enhancement, which included the provision of the walkway, have met with a mixed reaction from residents.

Work to be carried out in these areas includes creating 'civic spaces', installing hard and soft landscaping and new street furniture, and also further traffic management schemes to create more pedestrianisation in "gateway" locations like Court Road, Nolton Street and Merthyrmawr Road.

If this entails restricting traffic still further in town, there is likely to be a backlash from traders who claim that their businesses have been badly affected by the pedestrianisation that has already taken place, coupled with lack of car parking on the edges of the town.

But the report to cabinet, written by Louise Fradd, Corporate Director of Communities, claims that this work will "improve access and footfall into the town centre, and help stimulate future private sector investment in retail development."

There are legal implications as far as the river enhancements are concerned because of ownership and compensation issues between the old stone bridge and the Water Street bridge.

Officers warn that there is also a potential for disputes with the Ogmore Angling Association, which claims the right to fish most of the river.

The existence of fishing rights will have to be settled before any further development is commenced.

Deadline for the green raffle draw

THE Porthcawl-based charity Sustainable Wales is looking for volunteers to help sell tickets for its green Christmas raffle.

The charity is joining forces with the Pyle Co-operative store to offer a first prize of a 19-inch digital flat-screen TV/DVD Combi television, with other goodies being offered to lucky ticket-holders.

These include a football signed by members of the Cardiff City football team, who are supporting Sustainable Wales.

Tickets to Oakwood theme park, Pembrokeshire, the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff, and the National Wetlands Centre, near Llanelli, are also to be won.

And there are Fairtrade and green hampers worth £50 and £20, respectively, as well as a bottle of whisky as prizes.

Sustainable Wales Director Margaret Minhinnick said: "We're glad to be working with the Co-operative store, the Bluebirds of Cardiff City FC, the Wales Millennium Centre and so many other leading institutions on this important fundraising venture.

"Anyone interested in selling raffle tickets should ring Sustainable Wales on (01656) 783405, or call in to the SUSSED shop at 92, John Street, Porthcawl, where some of the great raffle prizes can be seen".

The raffle draw will take place on December 18.

Local shoppers have crime prevention advice in store

THE Oldcastle Neighbourhood Policing Team in Bridgend is running a series of mobile clinics at the town's major supermarkets, offering crime prevention advice to the public.

Officers are using the Safer Bridgend Crime prevention trailer to talk to shoppers about home security, autocrime and personal safety issues.

PCSO Christian Freeth, who is co-ordinating the events said: "In the run-up to Christmas, the crime prevention clinics will be located at different places in Bridgend's main shopping areas including Tesco, Asda and in the town centre.

"We are available to any member of the public who wants to come along for advice or even just to meet us for a chat."

(From left) PCSO Chris Freeth, PC Rea David, Clive Coates and Steve Thomas of Tesco, Chief Inspector Simon Belcher and PCSO Andy Newman at the mobile crime prevention clinic outside Tesco in Bridgend.

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'The Great War' book's record of sacrifice

MR RB Donovan of Bridgend, whose article on Sidney Hayward was featured in The GEM on November 26, could find more accurate information on the Hayward family in *The Great War: memorials in Cowbridge and Llanblethian*.

Published in November 2008 by Cowbridge Record Society, this book is on sale at The Cowbridge Bookshop and at Davies newsagents.

It was researched and written as a tribute to 44 young men who gave their lives for King and Country, and who are commemorated on local memorials.

When the memorial in Cowbridge was commissioned in 1920 the Hayward family no longer lived in the town and the names of Benjamin and Sidney were omitted.

The war records of the brothers were researched by their nephew, Stanley Hayward and as a result of his efforts and, with the support of the Cowbridge branch of the Royal British Legion Lance-Corporal Sidney Hayward was added to the memorial in 2001 to be followed by his brother, Stoker Benjamin Hayward in 2008.

Sidney was not the only Cowbridge man killed in action serving with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Pte Wiilliam Archer, 2nd RWF, died in the Second battle of the Somme in August 1918, and Sgt Arthur M Jones, 25th RWF, died in the attack on the Hindenburg Line in September 1918.

More details about these and the other men on the memorials in *The Great War.*

José Rawlins, Cowbridge Record Society

We welcome your viewss and news. Email them to the Editorial Department:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

HELP SAVE THE VULCAN!

MANY local people will remember with a degree of nostalgia, Vulcan bombers flying into RAF St Athan for major servicing, and XH558 displaying at the annual Battle of Britain air show.

This last flying Vulcan is now in desperate need of funds to enable it to continue thrilling crowds at air shows around the country. Parts of the airframe have reached the end of their flying hours and need to be replaced or modified to satisfy strict safety regulations.

The charitable trust responsible for getting the Vulcan back in the air and keeping her there, must have £200,000 by January and a further £400,000 by March in order to carry out this essential engineering work.

The alternative would be the grounding of the aircraft for ever. To anyone who has seen this most beautiful of aircraft in its natural environment, this is a situation that does not bear contemplating.

Please help NOW by going to www.vulcan-tothesky.org for information about the appeal. To make a simple donation of £3, just text vulcan to 82055. Every little will help to keep this grand old lady, who will be 50 in 2010, in the sky where she belongs.

Peter Wilson

What's next, the Euroxenocrime?

SO now we have a Dutch president, a Frenchman overseeing our financial services (much to the delight of Mr Sarkozy) and a Romanian, heaven help us, overseeing our agriculture.

What does the EU know about finance anyway? Its own accounts have not been approved for 16 years. What was that again that Edward Heath said about not losing sovereignty?

It cannot be long before even mentioning these facts becomes a Euroxenocrime, punishable by strangulation of the grants to us of (some of) our own money.

RH Bradshaw

Wanted – new poppy appeal organiser...

FOLLOWING this year's Poppy Appeal, I am retiring as the Cowbridge appeal organiser.

During the past three years Coun Len Taylor has borne much of the responsibility of Poppy Appeal Organiser, but in the coming year this will become more difficult due to his other commitments.

We hope that an individual, or group from Cowbridge and district would be willing to take on the role of 'organiser' for 2010. Coun Taylor and I will be happy to support them during the first year.

I am sure that within the community there must be someone who is prepared to continue this long and valued public service.

If anyone would like an informal discussion regarding what the role involves, please contact me via Cowbridge Town Hall.

Hadrian Evans, Porthcawl

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 17)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15– 20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
10 Thur	00.39	12.9	13.09	13.1
11 Fri	01.41	12.8	14.14	12.9
12 Sat	02.47	12.9	15.21	13.0
13 Sun	03.57	13.1	16.16	13.2
14 Mon	04.51	13.3	17.16	13.4
15 Tues	05.42	13.6	18.04	13.7
16 Wed	06.26	13.8	18.52	13.9
17 Thur	07.07	14.0	19.33	13.9

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend Westminster office - 02072194417. Constituency office - 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm (by appointment only). Telephone 01656 750002.
HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 737777
JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034
CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320
Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales Telephone 01639 643549
BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 – Open: Mon: 10:00am to 1:00pm - No callers - Phone only; Tue: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes _ hour earlier; Wed: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes _ hour earlier; Thu: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes _ hour earlier; Fri: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes _ hour earlier.
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Porthcawl 01656 785411
Maesteg 01656 732122
CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111 *(Emergency number 999)*
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
GAS (escapes and emergency) **0800 111999**
ELECTRICITY (power cuts) **0800 0520400**
WATER SUPPLY (emergency) **0800 0520130**
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
CHILDLINE 0800 1111
NSPCC 0800 800500
RSPCA 0300 123 0744
WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139
Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479
Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490
BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Housing service
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(emergencies out of hours) **01656 643643;**
(homelessness) **01656 643643.**
EDUCATION 01656 643643
LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES 01656 642677
HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) **01656 643643**
HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES
(outside normal working hours) **07831 143600**
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HOSPITALS Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend **01656 752752/668090.**
Bridgend and District NHS Trust **01656 752752/668090.**
VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) **01656 810400**
TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS
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Newcastle Higher Community Council **01446 750663.**
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Roy receives that famous Red Book to salute his long life!

STAFF at Bryn Celyn care home in Maesteg have recreated their very own rendition of *This is Your Life*, to celebrate and salute the life of an exceptional resident at the home.

Horace Roy Mitchell (92) from Maesteg, was surrounded by a number of close friends and family, including two of his grandchildren, for the *This is your Life* inspired afternoon with a presentation and slide show led by activities co-ordinator, Mark Chandler.

It included a commemorative DVD and the classic 'Red Book'.

The touching presentation ceremony was organised by Mark, who said: "Roy is a remarkable man and one who has enjoyed a life that has criss-crossed the globe from an early age.

"A life imbued with enormous energy and adventure; a life full of love, a gentleness of character and freeness of spirit which meant lifelong friends were forged wherever he happened to be and whomever he happened to meet.

"As a writer, Roy has already written an autobiography, which has helped me immensely with information on his fascinating life. The challenge has been condensing it down into a 30-minute presentation.

"This is the second time I have organised a *This is Your Life*-style event. I held the first one for another resident, Thelma McDonald, a few months ago.

"It was such a success that I decided to organise a series of ceremonies to recognise and celebrate the lives and achievements of our residents" he explained.

Roy said: "*I was completely shocked when I found out the ceremony was for me.*

"I am thoroughly touched by the effort that Mark and the staff at Bryn Celyn have gone to for me.

"The film and presentation brought a tear of joy to my eyes and a smile to my face."

ABOVE: Roy with his three children Joy (left), Keith (centre) and Pat (right).

Roy with good friend and neighbour, Geoff Ham.

Bridgend public house chef serves up a Triple A

ABOVE: Jill Matthews, Kevin Allford and Chris Bason.

CHEF Kevin Allford from White Horse pub in Coychurch has passed the Triple A – Applied Ability Awards – an independent qualification for professional chefs.

His mentor was Chris Bason, on behalf of Cambrian Training. At the end of training, Kevin cooked for two senior chef examiners.

Jill Matthews, head of catering at Brains explained: "Pub customers today demand diverse and interesting menus. This scheme helps raise the skills of the chef so they can better meet those demands."

MP congratulates new Labour leader

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon has added her congratulations to Bridgend AM Carwyn Jones, who has won the race to succeed Rhodri Morgan as leader of Labour in Wales and to become First Minister in the Welsh assembly.

"I know Carwyn well, and would like to offer him my sincere congratulations. I know he will now lead the Labour party, and Wales, for all of the people of Wales, and ensure that the fight is taken to the Tories in the coming weeks and months," she commented.

INQUIRY DATE FINALLY SET

Frustration over long wait for a new school at Pen-y-Fai

THE end may be in sight for the frustrated parents of Pen-y-fai Church in Wales Primary school, who have been fighting for a new school in the village for years.

Although funding was made available some years ago, delays in acquiring the land by compulsory purchase, and a mistake about which land was actually required, has meant that years have gone by with nothing happening.

Coun Meryl Wilkins submitted a written question to Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) asking about the new public inquiry which is to be held into the compulsory purchase order, and also asking if the money originally allocated by the Welsh Assembly was still held in the council's coffers, or had it been spent in other areas owing to the delays.

Coun Alana Davies, cabinet member for children, said the public inquiry had been delayed because the landowner – Michael Boland – was in hospital.

The inspector was unwilling to proceed as he was an expert witness and his participation was necessary.

The council objected to the adjournment but was overruled. The inquiry is now scheduled to start on February 2 next year and will take two days.

She went on: "Officers fully share the public's and members' sense of frustration and annoyance, but the administration of the public inquiry is not something that the council is able to control."

She said that funding is in place to build the school, although the money allocated originally by the Welsh Assembly had to be spent within a specified time and was diverted to other projects by agreement.

However, this meant that the council could use its own money to pay for the new school at Penyfai, and the same sum is available.

She added: "Until the outcome of the public inquiry is known, it is difficult to predict when the new school will be ready.

"However, everything possible is being done to ensure that the scheme can be progressed swiftly if, following the inquiry, the minister grants the necessary compulsory purchase orders."

BRIDGEND MAN (31) NAMED AS TOP WELSH APPRENTICE

A BRIDGEND man is one of three Welsh apprentices celebrating winning prizes at the first-ever EEF Future Manufacturing Awards.

Edward Williams (31) along with Alexander Chu (26) and Nick Kidwell (25), both from Swansea, received their accolades during a special ceremony in Cardiff.

Edward, a final year apprentice runner-up, works for Ford Motor Company in Bridgend.

He beat 74 applicants to win a place on the apprenticeship programme, and through his success went on to become a role model for his peer group.

Alexander, who works for Corus Packaging Plus in Llanelli, won the Final Year Apprentice Award.

Nick, joint final year runner-up, also works for Corus.

Terry Slater, EEF region director, said: "Alexander, Nick and Edward are a credit to themselves, their employers and industry as a whole.

"Apprenticeships provide an excellent route into the world of work and play a key role in developing the talent and skills that our manufacturing, engineering and technology-based companies require."

The EEF awards, which were launched this year, recognise enterprise, innovation, environmental performance and skills development among UK manufacturers.

The regional winners go forward to the EEF national finals in London next February.

Nick Kidwell and Edward Williams are pictured with Arshad Rasul.

'Glowing' report on young people's unit is welcomed

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon has welcomed the HM Inspectorate of Prisons' report on the Parc young people's unit.

"The report found that the growth of the unit, which has doubled in size in the past two years, had been well managed and the unit had developed into an impressive facility," she commented.

Mrs Moon, who met with Anne Owers, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, as well as meeting with the prison governor and others from Parc prison on a regular basis, said: "This glowing report is a great recognition of the dedication of the managers and team in HMP/YOI Parc, who have endeavoured to overcome problems and innovate where possible, to create a safe and purposeful environment.

"I look forward to continuing to work with the team at Parc along with all interested parties, including Parc supporting families, to ensure that further improvement is made, and that the unit continues to be a credit to the Welsh criminal justice system", the Bridgend MP added.

Two keep weight loss in the family

A BROTHER and sister from Maesteg have lost a total of 13 stone since starting their fitness regime at the recently refurbished Maesteg Sports Centre.

ABOVE: Paul and Pam – celebrating a 13-stone weight loss.

Paul Barnes (30) and Pam Whelan (41) claim that the continued support from staff at the council-run centre and the wide range of facilities, helped them to achieve their goals and lose an impressive six and a half stone each.

Pam has dropped five dress sizes, from a size 22 to a 10. She said: "I used to come to the centre twice a week while my children attended Judo. I would just sit and watch them until one day I noticed a promotion running and decided that things needed to change.

"I had some ongoing health problems and wanted to feel better. So I signed up and started to visit the gym whilst the children were here."

Following a series of specific programmes recommended by the centre's instructors, the pair began to steadily lose weight. Paul, who originally weighed 21 stone, regularly brings his three young children to the centre crèche.

He said: "I bring my two-year-old son and four-year-old twins here while I work out; the centre is family orientated and perfect for us. The changes that I have made mean that my health has vastly improved and I'm now far more confident.

"It definitely has been a whole lifestyle change and my children are also far healthier as a result."

Looking forward, the pair have set their sights on new goals, hoping to run a half marathon in the New Year! Their motto being, 'If we can do it anyone can!'

Council leader Mel Nott, said: "This is a great achievement and, as a user of the leisure facilities in the borough myself, I can second the praise for our council-run centres. Not only do the staff help to motivate, but the state of the art equipment and range of activities on offer inspire people to lead a healthy and active lifestyle."

10th annual book launch at Ogmore Valley History Society

ON November 27, Ogmore Vale Primary School was again the venue for the annual launch of the Ogmore Valley Local History Society Journal.

It also marked the 10th annual Journal of the society, though this is in fact our 12th publication, with the Miners Memorial Journal in 2004 and the History of Blackmill in Postcards in 2008, making up the numbers.

The turnout on the night, despite the atrocious weather, was fantastic – with the crowded school hall highlighting yet again what superb support the residents of the valley have shown to the society.

Also present were county councillors and as always, many members of the Ogmore Valley Community Council, who have been extremely supportive over the years.

This year, we also welcomed many members of the fledgling Garw Valley Heritage Society who, it seems, are following a very similar path to ourselves and as the two valleys have had a natural affinity, we are happy to assist them wherever we can.

The evening was opened by Paul Booth, headteacher of Ogmore Primary, where we have been fortunate to hold our launches since the school opened in September 2003, following the closure of Aber Infants, Fronwen Primary, Park St Nursery and Tynewydd Primary schools.

They had served the valley in various buildings since 1865 when the first schools were set up by the local collieries and chapels for those who could afford to send their children to be educated.

Next year, we will start alternating the venue for the annual book launch with Nantymoel Primary School, after a request from the new headteacher, Mrs Alyson Jones, who is very keen to establish the same fantastic links we have enjoyed with the Ogmore Valley Schools since 1999.

Also present were Huw Irranca-Davies, MP and Janice Gregory AM who have been staunch supporters over the years.

This year, the Journal was officially launched by another special guest, Rosemary Butler, AM, the Deputy Presiding Officer of the Welsh Assembly – who gave a magnificent off-the-cuff speech highlighting and commending several articles from this year's book.

The speeches were rounded off by Bert Jones on behalf of the society all who had attended on a night where the weather really was dreadful and also loyal members and supporters in the Valley and worldwide.

We are, of course, already busy preparing next year's Journal, which will be launched in Nantymoel Primary School, probably on November 26, 2010, but we will confirm the date closer to the event.

We are happy to receive articles for future Journals, or even suggestions as to what members can research as potential future articles, as well as any new images of the valley for our ever-growing digital archive.

Sincere thanks go to staff at Ogmore Vale Primary and in particular Paul Booth and for allowing full use of the magnificent facility that is Ogmore Vale.

H DANIEL
(Secretary)

Llangynwyd post office gets a big funding boost

LABOUR AM Janice Gregory has congratulated Llangynwyd Post Office on its successful application to the Post Office Diversification Fund.

The Post Office is one of 75 across Wales to be awarded part of approved grants of £1.55m over two financial years, to help sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses diversify and improve their facility.

The fund aims to help with business and marketing advice, advertising, training and some set-up costs for new services.

Funding can also be applied for improvements such as creating better access to buildings, upgrading computer equipment, improving security or providing better signs for the outside of premises.

The AM said: "I am delighted that Llangynwyd Post Office is to benefit from this fund. Post Offices are at the heart of the community and are often a lifeline for vulnerable people.

"This money will help us to keep Post Offices open by ensuring that subpostmasters and subpostmistresses have sustainable and viable businesses.

"I am delighted that so many Post Offices in Wales have been able to take advantage of the fund."

Carols at Cowbridge

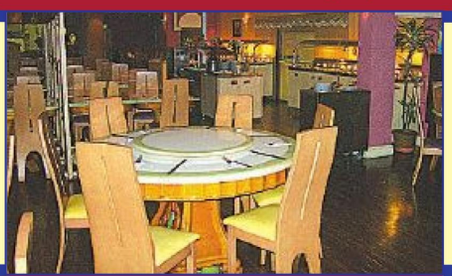
DURING the summer, Brackla Tabernacle, a Bridgend-based church, began the first stage of its new church plant into the Vale of Glamorgan.

The 'Re:Fresh' events held in Cowbridge Comprehensive School marked the start of their venture and were hugely successful, attracting an average of 190 people at each.

Although weekly services are not planned to begin until spring 2010, at 7.30pm on Friday, December 18, in Cowbridge Town Hall, Brackla Tabernacle will be hosting 'Carols at Cowbridge.' The event will include classic Christmas carols and will feature the musicians and singers of Brackla Tabernacle performing some contemporary Christian Christmas music.

Admission to 'Carols at Cowbridge' is free, refreshments will be provided and a very warm welcome is given to anyone who would like to attend.

For more information regarding 'Carols at Cowbridge' or about Brackla Tabernacle please contact Brackla Tabernacle's office on 01656 650500 or visit www.brack-latabernacle.org. **CH**



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PREVENTION, PROVISION, PROTECTION...

The three P's that are needed to tackle violence against women

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive report from Westminster for The GEM.

VIOLENCE against women is still one of those taboo subjects, even though it is no longer hidden behind closed doors.

When the first Women's Aid shelters began to open their doors in the 1960s there was a generally held belief that 'battered women' had brought it on themselves'.

The sexual tease, the harpy, the nagging wife, the highly strung, hysterical women pushed men to the limits.

It is now recognised that domestic violence is about power and control over women, their lives and bodies, but still we have a huge problem.

Women are moving out into the world as professionals, leaders and workers, but still they are at great risk of facing domestic violence. The problem is still all too often hidden behind closed doors and domestic violence remains a reality of modern life in this country.

Violence against women and girls ruins lives, breaks up families and has a lasting impact across generations of families.

At least 750,000 children a year witness domestic violence and half of all women in touch with mental health services have experienced violence and abuse. Our prisons are full of people who have grown up in families dominated by the fear of domestic violence. A report by Baroness Corsten revealed that 37 per cent of women prisoners have attempted suicide some time in their life. One on four had been in care during their childhood, while more than half had experienced domestic violence.

This picture of abuse and failure continues when imprisoned as one third of women lose their homes and often their possessions when in prison.

They also often lose their children. Despite progress made over recent years, domestic violence is responsible for 16 per cent of homelessness and costs the economy £40.1bn per annum

Much has been done over recent years to increase protection for women and to punish their attackers with new legislation, extra resources and front-line training.

However, this complex problem demands a broader response to stop violence from happening in the first place: we need to increase our focus on prevention.

A new and ambitious cross-government strategy has been launched aimed at ending violence against women and girls. As well as measures to further protect victims and tackle perpetrators, the 'Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy' signals a new focus on preventing violence from happening.

The strategy sets out a range of actions for the police, local authorities, NHS and government departments in three key areas: Prevention, Provision and Protection.

The 'Prevention' aspect of the strategy aims to address the social attitudes and myths about violence, which perpetuate the problem. Our long-term ambition is to change behaviour and stop violence happening in the first place.

A national long-term communications strategy will be launched, which will challenge attitudes and raise awareness of existing support services for women and children affected by violence.

An awareness campaign targeting violence within teenagers' relationships run by the Home Office with support from Department of Health and the NSPCC will start in the New Year and violence against women and girls and gender equality will be included as topics in the school curriculum.

There will also be increased investment in Family Intervention Projects, leading to an increase in the number of families supported from 2,700 to 10,000 per year by 2010/11.

Changing attitudes that tolerate violence against women and girls will take time, but is essential if we are ever to break the vicious cycle.

Where violence does occur, victims are to be offered the help they need, such as counselling and access to specialist services.

The 'Provision' strand of the strategy involves protecting central government investment in services for victims of domestic and sexual violence with more than £13m of funding next year, including more money for sexual assault referral centres, local rape crisis services, Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence advisors and support for trafficked women.

There will be new guidance for the NHS and local government on how best to commission services for victims of violence.

Protection will be also be strengthened. New measures will be put in place to help women in contact with the criminal justice system to improve their experience and steps to better manage offenders.

New 'Go' orders will be introduced giving police and courts the power to exclude perpetrators from victims' homes for up to 28 days to give victims a breathing space to apply for longer term protection.

Third parties like independent domestic violence advisors, or other third sector organisations, will be enabled to apply to court for injunctions on behalf of victims

On November 25, the United Nations' Elimination of Violence Against Women Day and White Ribbon Day, MPs united in their support to end violence against women.

The White Ribbon Campaign is the largest international organisation targeting men to work towards ending male violence against women.

This campaign will be working closely with the Home Office, to ensure that this strategy is successful.

Bridgend company makes two brave young sports fans' dreams come true...

Left to right: Andrew Wheeler, Steve Dalton, managing director of Sony UK Technology, Mike Johnson, Paddy Wheeler and Joseph Johnson.

A BRIDGEND Company helped two young cancer victims fulfil their dream – a trip to the Millennium Stadium to meet the Wales rugby team and watch them take on Australia.

Paddy Johnson (aged 11) and Joseph Wheeler (15) from Cardiff were both diagnosed with cancer in 2008 and have undergone chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

The boys are both "huge rugby fans' and paid a visit to the stadium to meet the Welsh team, followed by hospitality tickets to the big match from Sony UK Technology after their names were drawn from a raffle of all the children in the oncology unit at University Hospital Wales.

The boys, both from Cardiff, who attended the match with their fathers Mike Wheeler and Andrew Johnson, also received early Christmas presents from Managing Director of Sony Uk Technology, Steve Dalton.

Paddy was diagnosed with a brain tumour in August 2008 and has since undergone a course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment. He will have completed his treatment on his 12th birthday on December 19.

Joseph was diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma in his spinal cord in October 2008 which resulted in his being temporarily paralysed in both legs. He underwent intensive chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment until August 2009 and was given the all clear in October 2009.

Sarah Cornelius, chief executive and founder of The Joshua Foundation commented: "We are really grateful to Sony UK for helping us to provide life experiences for these two brave young boys and is what The Joshua Foundation is all about.

"Fundraisers like the Big Night Out this Friday simply help us provide experiences for the children who are fighting cancer from small things like a trip to the Millennium Stadium to see the rugby to a trip to Lapland or a week,s holiday at the apartments in Fishguard.

"I would like to thank everyone who continues to support The Joshua Foundation so we can continue to help make dreams come true as well as provide respite for the children and their families.

The Joshua Foundation was created in September 1998 to provide holidays and experiences for children and their families where the child is diagnosed with terminal cancer. The Joshua Foundation celebrated its 10th anniversary on 4th December 2008 and in the ten years since the charity was founded it has raised £5 million and helped more than 250 children.

Stars of the sponsored swim at Bryntirion Comprehensive School

IN October, Bryntirion Comprehensive School PTA held its annual sponsored swim at the school, the first since the pool was refurbished and the new pool cover purchased.

The event was a great success.

Not only did the pupils, members of staff and PTA members enjoy themselves, but a great deal of money was raised. Many parents attended and cheered on their children during the swim.

A total of 13 teams of up to six swimmers took part, swimming as many lengths in 50 minutes on Saturday October 10., when £661 was raised.

The winning team swam 221 lengths of the school swimming pool in 50 minutes. The team members were Marc Ennis (year-12), Kate Phillips (year-10), Ashley Lewis (year-10), Kirsty Hancock (year-10), Martha Davies (year-10) and Sean Landy (year-12).

Beth Robinson (year-8) raised the most money £61, congratulations to her for her efforts. Students from year-7 & year-8 must have a special mention as they entered the most teams.

We thank all children, staff and parents for making this a resounding success and hope that all future events go as well.

In September, the PTA ran a Bag2school day where students/parents and people in the local community brought bags to school with adults and children's clothing, bedding, curtains, soft toys, shoes, belts & handbags. These are then collected and the school are paid by the tonne. On this occasion we made £230, which is by far the largest of our three collections over the last two years. Thank you to all who contributed to this.

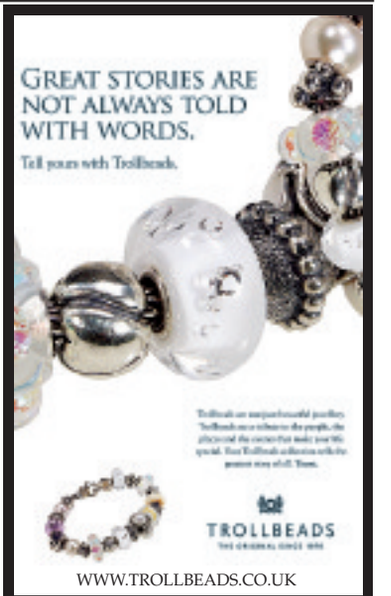
FUTURE EVENTS

We are still in the process of organising our events for next year with many ideas on the table. One of our next events will be our annual PTA spring raffle and we would welcome any individual or businesses that would like to donate prizes for the raffle. All other donations will also be welcome.

In the last four years, we have purchased equipment for a media centre, supported school awards, school musicals, supply of new goal posts for the school, remote microphones for the drama department and the refurbishment to the school foyer, amongst other things. Over the past 15 years, the PTA have raised over £30,000 for the school.

If anyone is able to help us with this matter, or are able to make a donation in the future, no matter how small, contact me on 01656 668589 or send any donations to:- Bryntirion Comprehensive School PTA (Charity Registration No: 1054036), Merlin Crescent, Cefn Glas, Bridgend, Mid Glam CF31 4QR.

Andrew Thalayasingam, Chairman, Bryntirion Comprehensive School PTA



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Campaigners celebrate scrapping of wind farm plan Scarweather Sands

by GEM reporters

PORTHCAWL campaigners are celebrating their success after E-On announced it was scrapping plans for the Scarweather Sands offshore wind farm.

The proposal was opposed by 'SOS Porthcawl' which was made up of a large number of local residents. The Lib-Dem and Conservative groups on Porthcawl Town Council were in opposition, and so were Bridgend County Borough Council.

Porthcawl Environment Trust (PET) were also prominent in the fight to stop the windfarm being developed on the grounds that it would be visually intrusive and would also cause immense damage to the habitat of the Harbour Porpoise which lives off Porthcawl.

PET took the fight to Europe and had asked the European Commission to enforce the European Habitats Directive, which the group believed would have outlawed the development.

In a statement issued last week, E-On stated that the scheme was no longer economically viable.

PET campaigner Caroline Vaughan said: "This is great news.

"It shows that people can take on big conglomerates and win if they have the right arguments. We never gave up even after planning consent was granted by the Assembly.

"I want to thank everyone in Porthcawl who joined us in this fight. I hope that this will spell the end of the plan because if it is unviable for one company, it is likely to be unviable for all of them."

Coun Gerald Davies, who represents Rest Bay, paid tribute to the work done by the 'SOS Porthcawl' group. he said; "I think that they ran an impressive campaign and worked incredibly hard.

"They made sure people had access to information and let them make up their own minds. Don't forget either that they made such an impressive case that the Assembly inspector agreed with them!

"It only received the go-ahead when a committee of four AMs passed it."

On the other side of an argument that was frequently heated was Margaret Minhinnick, the direct of Sustainable Wales (SW), the Porthcawl-based environmental charity..

She told the GEM: "I don't think the company ever really tried to engage with the community, and it certainly didn't keep anyone informed.

"Had it been offering some community benefit to Porthcawl, then I think that it might have been viewed differently."

She insisted that SW was keen that other companies in the renewable energy field should come forward, adding; "I think it is important that each and every community makes a significant contribution to tackling climate change.

"We can't just sit back and say that somewhere else should do it!"

Ironically, it is arguable that the Scarweather Sands plan was simply proposed too late. Barely six months after receiving Assembly planning approval, UK Government ministers were suddenly talking about a new type of wind farm.

Projects such as the London array, comprising hundreds of turbines, all far enough out to sea to no longer be visible, were suddenly the flavour of the month.

As these turbines would be on floating platforms, so they also avoided the expense of constructing foundations on sandbanks such as Scarweather. No foundations, apart from being cheaper, meant far less disruption to marine habitats.

Last week, David Farrier, director of the project, said that since the lease was first awarded in 2003, their involvement in larger offshore wind projects throughout the UK and Europe had convinced them that the scheme is not commercially viable.

The Tory AM Alun Cairns said: "This represents a victory for the people of Porthcawl, who were largely opposed to the windfarm.

"There were always doubts about its viability and I am delighted for the hard core of opponents who never gave up the fight even after planning consent was granted."

He added: "We must be vigilant in case someone tries to come forward with a larger scheme which would be even more intrusive and damaging,"

Borough Council acts on schools music service

THE Music Service run by Bridgend County Borough Council is to come back under the control of education.

That was one of the recommendations accepted by the cabinet which received a report from the Health and Well Being scrutiny committee, that has been considering the review into the Music Service carried out by the council.

This included consultations with pupils and schools on the future of the service.

The committee considered that, as the service is delivered in schools and restricted to pupils, it would be more suitable for it to come under the remit of the Children's Directorate, which includes education, rather than with Health and Well Being, which runs all other cultural services.

The committee has made a number of recommendations which have all been accepted by the cabinet. These includel:

- Carrying out further analysis into the level of participation of children from low income homes.
- Postponing any decision about the Music Service until the Welsh Assembly Government has carried out its review of extra curricular music education.
- That the issue be referred back to scrutiny ahead of any decision being made by cabinet.

Bridgend Young Singers

Congratulations to the Bridgend 'Young Singer of the Year' finalists who took part in the event, organised by the Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir.

Unfortunately, one competitor nominated in the junior section had to be discounted as the youngster's birthday put their age past the limit on the day of the finals.

The junior section finalists are as follows: Megan Eleri Griffiths (Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari); Jacob Lloyd Lewis (Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari); Sarah Thalayasingham (Bryntirion Comprehensive School).

The senior section was so competitive. It was felt by adjudicators that it should be increased from four to six.

The senior section finalists are as follows: Hannah Vivian-Byrne (Archbishop McGrath Catholic Secondary School); Elizabeth Alice Grace French (Pencoed Comprehensive School); Rhian Hughes (Ynysawdre Comprehensive School); Amelia Jones (Porthcawl Comprehensive School); Charlotte Skidmore (St Clare's Convent School); Stephan Ulberini (Archbishop McGrath Catholic Secondary School).

The winner of each section will receive "The Bryan Davies Trophy" and a prize to the value of £500, made up as follows: £100 cheque and a voucher for £400 to further music education within his/her school, together with a trophy. The runners-up in each category will receive £25 and a voucher for £75 to further music education within his/her school, together with a trophy.

The finals take place at Maesteg town hall on Saturday, January 30, 2010.

Christmas Child boxes

MEMBERS of St Bride's, Llansantffraid church were delighted to donate to the charity 'Operation Christmas Child' the magnificent total of 142 boxes, including one from a lady in Lisvane, Cardiff and others from St Mary Hill church.

This highlights the advantages of advising your local media correspondent of any community news.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

St John's Church, Aberkenfig

THE Bridgend Masonic Lodges Charitable Trust is holding a carol service at the church on Sunday, December 13 at 6.00pm.

Everyone is welcome.

St David's Church, Betws

MEMBERS of the Young Farmers organisation will be holding their annual carol service at the church on Sunday, December 13 at 7.30pm.

They aim to raise money for a deserving charity. Everyone is welcome.

Support Our Soldiers

I ATTENDED a concert held to raise money for this charity at the Aberkenfig Social and Athletics club.

There were only a small number of ladies involved, but in the last three weeks they had collected items and packed parcels totalling over 600 which they had sent to the troops in Afghanistan.

This free postal service is actually under threat of being discontinued.

The items which can be sent in the parcels is limited – the items soldiers most require are wash/wipes and t-shirts.

There was an amazing lady there that evening who had individually collected the items and packed a total of over 3,500 parcels herself.

The entertainment for the evening was provided by the Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir.

The soloist was Claire Michelle Edwards, who had been the Bridgend young singer of the year senior section competition winner in 2003 and 2004. Even though she had a chest infection, she still performed brilliantly.

Tynyrheol primary school, Llangeinor

Mr Martin Griffiths, headteacher, would like to thank everyone who donated metal cans for the Bridgend CBC metal miles world record attempt for an unbroken line of recycled drinks cans.

They achieved the record with a total of 106,300 cans, beating the previous record by more than 15,000 cans.

The school, one of the smallest in the borough, donated the third highest total of 2,888 cans out of the 60 schools taking part.

The pupils recently raised the magnificent total of £140 towards the BBC's 'Children in Need' charity, also £36.67 for the Poppy appeal.

The pupils' Christmas party is taking place on December 15, with a special lunch at the school followed by a party in the Richard Price Centre.

Coffee morning

At the recent coffee morning table top sale at St Tyfodwg's church, Glynogwr, members were pleased that despite the atrocious weather they managed to raise £270.

Llangeinor hunt will be holding their charity carol concert at the church today (December 10) at 7.30pm.

There will be a community carol service at the church on December 13 at 7.30pm, with seasonal refreshments after the service. Everyone welcome.

Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor

THERE is a free community Christmas concert at the centre on December 16, with the Blaengarw male and ladies choirs assisted by pupils from Tynyrheol primary school.

Everyone is welcome.

Brynmenyn primary school will be holding its Christmas concerts as follows: Classes 1 and 2 titled "Christmas with the Aliens" it is on Monday, December 14 at 2.30pm and December 15 at 5.30pm.

Classes 3 and 4 titled "Rock around the Flock" is on Monday, December 14 at 5.30pm and Wednesday, December 16 at 2.30pm.

'GET SPONSORED – Don't get cold for nothing!' – call to Porthcawl's Christmas morn ing swimmers

ORGANISERS are expecting a record attendance at Porthcawl's 45th Christmas morning swim this year.

Last year proved to be very successful, with more than 930 registered swimmers and more than 3,000 spectators enjoying the festivities.

The Christmas spirit was in abundance with hundreds crowding into the square at the Hi-Tide Inn creating a very festive mood. Many supporters filled the beach and cheered the swimmers down to the waters edge.

This year, swimmers will be pleased to hear that we have arranged for the tide to be well up the beach, so getting into the water for the festive dip will be easier than last year when the tide was right out!

There are several sea swims over the festive season and the organisers believe that Porthcawl's is the largest in the UK held on Christmas day and possibly the largest of all festive swims.

The age of swimmers ranges from children to senior citizens, and many venture into the sea in family groups, some in fancy dress.

Sandy Bay in Porthcawl is likely to be busier on Christmas morning than on any summer day, especially this year, as the tide will be well up the beach at 11.45am.

The proceedings will start at 11am with carol singing at the Hi Tide Inn Square. All swimmers are asked to register between 10.45am-11.15am. The Hi Tide Inn, Mackworth Road, will provide both male and female changing rooms.

The local coastguard unit will signal the start of the swim at 11.45am.

St John Ambulance, Rest Bay Lifeguards and Porthcawl's RNLI lifeboat crew will patrol the beach in support of the Swim.

Arrangements are in place to make collections at the Hi Tide Inn on Christmas morning for the Swim's chosen local charities and organisations.

This year, our two main ones will be 'Y Bont' and 'Forces in Afghanistan Comfort Fund'.

While the latter is self-explanatory 'Y Bont' is a charity 'Enabling babies and pre-school children with disabilities to lead rich, fulfilling lives'. It provides numerous services to children up to age 10 in the Bridgend borough area.

If swimmers could help to raise money towards these it would be appreciated; if, however, you chose another charity then we would ask, as it says on our sponsorship form, that you let us know how much you raised and for whom, so that we can collate a 'grand total' of the money raised by the Swim.

Several local organisations will also benefit from the swim's collections.

To date, people's generosity has allowed the swim committee to donate well in excess of £57,000 to local organisations.

Those wishing to obtain sponsorship forms can download from our website, www.christmasswim.co.uk.org or pick up at the Town Council Office in Victoria Avenue, Tourist Information Centre, (or Jane's Cards in John Street, Porthcawl).

Treasurer Marilyn Richards, said: "We are encouraging swimmers to get sponsored with our moto for this year 'SWIMMERS - PLEASE GET SPONSORED - DON'T GET COLD FOR NOTHING'.

We would like to know the total that will be raised via the swim, as we are sure each year there must be thousands of pounds raised by individuals for their own charities, of which we are unaware.

"Our small committee is heavily involved in preparation again this year and we are rewarded by witnessing a successful swim and to know how much our efforts are supported.

"We would also be very grateful for volunteers on the morning that could assist with our charity collection."

Swim chairman, Nicola Willis, commented: "We are hoping for even bigger crowds on this, our 45th year.

"We have requested bright sunshine, so looking positively, it could be warmer to take a swim in the sea than to stand by watching!

"We would like to thank each and everyone who gives their help and support to make Porthcawl's Christmas Morning Swim so successful."

IAN STROUD

Local school collects a full house of top grades!

ABOVE: A question and answer session with the infants.

ABOVE: The school choir were in fine voice.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

LIVELY lessons, effective leadership and exemplary behaviour – that's the glowing report given by Estyn inspectors following their recent visit to Mynydd Cynffig Junior School.

The school was awarded Grade One in each of the 'Seven Key Questions' which Estyn inspectors use to measure achievement. Grade One is the highest mark and is only awarded when a school is deemed "good with outstanding features".

As a result, Bridgend's AM and MP, Carwyn Jones and Madeleine Moon, visited both Mynydd Cynffig and its neighbouring infants school.

For Carwyn Jones, it was one of his last engagements before being confirmed as Wales' next First Minister.

Headteacher Neil Davies said: "The report has succeeded in reinforcing our belief that this school provides children with an exciting and secure learning environment in which they are able to succeed and flourish.

"As well as thanking the fantastic staff, pupils and governors of the school, I would also like to thank the parents and grandparents for their continued support in contributing towards the success of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School."

Coun Alana Davies, BCBC cabinet member for young people, added: "I am delighted to see another county borough school receiving a positive inspection, and I am so pleased for the staff and pupils of Mynydd Cynffig Juniors.

"As a former teacher, I know how hard staff work to provide children with an excellent education."

The Estyn team described the pupils' behaviour as "exemplary, showing great kindness and respect" and the effectiveness of the leadership and management team was also acknowledged.

The chair of governors, Mrs Gretta Rogers, said: "We are extremely proud to have achieved a Grade One in all seven key questions.

"These judgements reflect and acknowledge the skill, commitment and dedication of the teachers and support staff as well as giving credit to our hard-working pupils for the high standards they achieve."

ABOVE: Mynydd Cynffig Infants headteacher Mrs Amanda Stanford welcomes Mrs Greta Rogers, Carwyn Jones AM and Madeleine Moon MP.

ABOVE: Carwyn Jones and Madeleine Moon with school governors.

Caerau houses get a £2.8m make-over

A TOTAL of 150 houses in one of the most deprived areas in Wales have been renovated with money from the Welsh Assembly Government.

Bridgend's cabinet heard that the Caerau Housing Renewal Area was first declared in September 2006, and followed an in-depth house condition survey, environmental study, community meetings and postal questionnaires. So far, the assembly has granted £2.8m towards the scheme and about £18,000 has been spent per property.

The main focus of a housing renewal area is the external enveloping of the properties to upgrade the appearance of an area through a co-ordinated block approach.

Now, the council is seeking a further £2.16m to enable a further 120 properties to be completed, with 10 per cent of the budget being spent on environmental schemes.

Officers stated that there are more houses in need of renovation than money available, and those properties in greatest need will be tackled first in a "fair and transparent" process.

The council will now seek to select a block of houses identified as being in the worst condition. Households in receipt of benefits are also targeted.

Cabinet accepted the report and authorised officers to select the houses to be targeted.

Porthcawl's new clerk takes over

PORTHCAWL Town council has appointed a new clerk, Alison Leyshon (aged 23), of Port Talbot.

Ms Leyshon is a law graduate who currently works for Neath Port Talbot Council in the social services department.

She has also spent time in Kenya teaching and works with a special needs activity club in Port Talbot.

Ms Leyshon has specialised in devolution law and public law and also has IT qualifications.

She was appointed by an all-party selection panel and was the unanimous choice.

Mayor Rosemary Deere said that she was delighted the council had appointed Alison Leyshon:

"I know I speak on behalf of all colleagues in looking forward to working with her for the benefit of Porthcawl and all its people.

"I am sure she will be a first class addition to the team we have in Porthcawl," the Mayor added.

She replaces Ceri Anderson, who las left Porthcawl for the west Wales resort of Newquay, where she will run a pub with her husband.

Young Bridgend footballers line up for a Pizza of the action..!

THE Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Oldcastle in Bridgend helped serve up a slice of football action, with the help of the local Dominos Pizza, which sponsored a mini-football tournament for the award.

PC Rea David and PCSO Rob Newman, community officers for the Oldcastle ward and PC David said: "We are very grateful to Dominos Pizza which agreed to support the event both by providing trophies for the competition, as well as their popular pizzas."

PCSO Newman added: "Within the area there is a council-owned ball court which is under used and a recurring complaint from residents is that youths play football all over the estate but never in this court.

"We decided to try and change this and last month we staged a mini football tournament for the area at the ball court".

The winning team consisted of Lewis Joseph, Jamie Joseph, Liam Joseph, Bobby Bromley and Danny Lee Griffiths who won every game throughout the tournament and Player of the Tournament was Lewis Joseph.

The NPT were represented by PCSOs Rob Newman, Christian Freeth, Dean Davies and Lisa Moore and PCs Rea David and Matthew Tatchell.

"The priority for the next two months in the Oldcastle ward is anti social behaviour at Heol Dwyrain and Ffordd Ganol, the football initiative is also helping to address these issues," said PCSO Newman.

The Rotarians (and Santa) ready for the Carolcade!

PORTHCAWL Rotarians are all set to take their Christmas Carolcade through the streets of the seaside town.

A spokesman said: "December is a very busy time for the Rotary Club of Porthcawl. We will be in John Street, Porthcawl from 9am-5pm on Saturday, December 12 and 19, followed by Thursday, December 24 from 9am-1pm with Santa's sleigh.

"We will also be touring the town between 5.15pm-8.45pm tomorrow (Friday, December 11) from Long Acre Drive, ending at Kittiwake Close; December 14, from Suffolk Place, ending at Windsor Road; Wednesday, December 16, from Bryneglwys Gardens, ending at Rowan Drive; and December 17, at Brian Crescent, ending at Station Hill.

"Times and routes are subject to change on the night, but we will try to keep to the schedules above.

"Father and Mother Christmas with their sleigh and reindeer would be delighted to meet children and adults alike. A collection will be made for Rotary charities.

"In the meantime, the Rotary Club of Porthcawl wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for your generosity throughout the years," he added.

Children to sing carols in the Civic Offices

CHILDREN from local primary are performing mini carol concerts at Bridgend County Borough Council's customer service centre in Angel Street throughout December.

Following the success of last year's performance by Tremains Junior School, all primary schools were invited to sing in the centre as part of the council's Christmas celebrations.

The customer service centre deals with more than 100 customers every day, as well as many visitors. They will be able to watch and listen to the choirs on the following dates: December 11 (10am), West Park Primary; December 14, (1.30pm) Llangewydd Juniors; December 16 (1.30pm), Ffaldau Primary; December 17 (10.30am) Plasnewydd Primary; December 21 (10am) Tondu Primary.

Coun Alana Davies, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Last year the carols created a lovely festive atmosphere in the centre and the children's singing was wonderful.

"The pupils from Tremains did an excellent job in wishing visitors to Civic Offices a very Merry Christmas and I'm sure this year's performances will do just the same."

Cadet news from 2300 Squadron at St Athan

REGIONAL RUGBY

RECENTLY, Cadet Warrant Officer Mike Green from 2300 (St Athan) Squadron travelled to DCAE Cosford to take part in regional rugby, playing for Wales & West.

There were five other teams besides Wales & West at the event. The first match was against LASER Region and Wales & West won 12-0.

The second match Wales & West lost, 7-10. Then Wales & West were fighting for third place against Scotland & Northern Ireland. Unfortunately, Wales & West lost in the final round 0-14. Wales & West Region finished in fourth place overall.

FLYING HIGH

SIX Cadets recently undertook flying training in the Grob Tutor aircraft on MoD St Athan, despite some poor weather.

For four cadets it was their first flight in a light aircraft. They each had a 25-minute flight in which they were familiarised with the flying controls and even got to take over themselves.

The two who had flown before got to experience the thrill of aerobatics, doing loops and rolls.

LIGHTING UP

LAST weekend, the squadron assisted with the annual Christmas light switch-on at both St Athan and Llantwit Major.

At both events, the cadets were busy helping to set things up and then taking part in the parade at the Llantwit light switch-on.

Community service is an important part of a cadet's activities, as it counts towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Thank you to all the cadets who helped out!

REMEMBRANCE

THE senior NCOs of the squadron, together with the CO and training officer, were invited to the Cardiff Normandy Veterans annual dinner at Ely RAFA Club.

Following a superb five-course meal, we won lots of raffle prizes (the alcoholic prizes being appropriated by the staff – sorry guys!) and enjoyed musical entertainment.

It was a fun but poignant evening thinking of those that were not fortunate to survive the Normandy landing but sharing the company of those that have. If it wasn't for these amazing people, we would not be here today.

ABOVE:
Playing at the regional rugby event.

ABOVE:
Enjoying the veterans' dinner.

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NEWS FROM BRIDGEND CHESS CLUB

Top-form Time Lords conquer the Castles

IN a busy week at Bridgend Chess Club, the Time Lords entered the Cardiff Castles' stronghold and stole the points following a 3-2 win, thus inflicting a second season defeat on their counterparts and closing the gap at the top of Division One of the East Glamorgan Chess League to just a half-point.

IM Roland Berzinsh dealt the Castles a hammer blow, with a crushing win over Tim Kett. Tim looked to have the edge when on move 24 he played Qh4+. Combining well with his dark-squared bishop, black's queen looked threatening.

Roland held his nerve as his pieces quickly manoeuvred to aid the king, and deflect the queen's attack. In clinical fashion, the Bridgend Time Lord sacrificed his rook, an excellent combination that would have led to mate, but for Kett's resignation.

David Robinson continued the onslaught. Alan Spice's queen looked doomed, after some continual harassment from David's knights.

A queen retreat would win an exchange for David, as the bishop skewered queen and rook from f4, along the dark diagonal.

However, there was further venom in the attack as white's king looked a lonely figure on g1. With all his military camped on the queen-side, and with black's queen and light-squared bishop staring menacingly in his direction from b8 and b7 respectively, the threat of mate loomed large.

Spice's resignation was understandable.

Further points were added by Femi Adebajo and Paul Tew. Both ground out draws against John Trevelyan and Derek Smith respectively. The Castles hit back through Peter Ehsandar, who saw off Mike Cram.

In Division Three, The Bridgend Borg shared the spoils 2.5-2.5, with league leaders Penarth Pirates. Mike Cleaves enjoyed the only win for the Borg, beating Tony Gutteridge. Mark Jones, Neil Stuart and Len Skinner all earned valuable draws.

The Jedi lead the field in Division Three, albeit by half a point, as they plundered a few points in Pontypridd against the Marauders.

Damon Davies continued his exceptional form in beating Roger Jenkins, maintaining a 100 per cent record in this division. Simple chess, win the exchanges, and when there is a pawn majority, swap the pieces and win the endgame.

There was an excellent win for Nathan Trickey, as the Bridgend Wraith drew 2.5-2.5 with the Cheetahs of North Cardiff.

Katie Treharne continued her impressive run of results, with another win. This time dismantling Simon Pearce, as Bridgend SG-1 triumphed 3.5-1.5 over the Cardiff Knights.

East Glamorgan Chess League

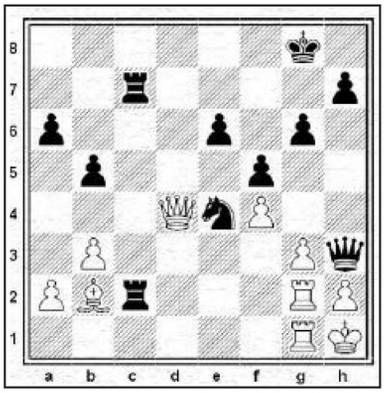
Division One	**P**	**Pts**
Cardiff Castles	8	29
Bridgend Time Lords	8	28.5
Cardiff Bishops	8	22
Barry Bosons	8	22
Cardiff Pawns	8	19.5
Caerphilly Kings	8	19
Nelson Unicorns	7	17.5
Aberdare Wasps	8	13.5
Pontypridd Stranglers	8	13
Cardiff Monarchs	7	11
Division 2	**P**	**Pts**
Penarth Pirates	8	27
Cardiff AJ's	8	24
Caerphilly Castles	8	23.5
Bridgend Borg	8	21
Nelson Rhinos	8	21
Cardiff Dragons	8	19
Pentyrch A	8	19
Penarth Piers	8	18
North Cardiff Woodpushers	8	16.5
Cardiff Cavaliers	8	11
Division 3	**P**	**Pts**
Bridgend Jedi	8	25.5
Barry Camelots	8	25
Barry Gambits	7	20.5
Pontypridd Marauders	7	20
Pontypridd Phoenix	7	19.5
Caerphilly Knights	8	19
Cardiff Crowns	7	15.5
Penarth Barons	7	14.5
Pentyrch B	8	13
Porthcawl A	7	12.5
Division 4	**P**	**Pts**
North Cardiff Cheetahs	6	25
Bridgend Wraith	6	17.5
Cardiff Knights	6	16
Rhondda	6	15
Bridgend SG-1	6	13.5
Barry Quarks	5	10
Caerphilly Rooks	5	9
North Cardiff Hornets	6	9

ANDREW TRICKEY

Chess puzzle

THE GEM has teamed up with Bridgend Chess Club to offer a new weekly competition. Solve the chess puzzle below and submit your entry to us. Each week there is a free month's membership to Bridgend Chess Club up for grabs.

All puzzles entered between now and December 31, 2009 will enter a prize drawing to win a copy of *Starting Out: Chess Tactics and Checkmates by Chris Ward.*



Black to play - MATE IN TWO MOVES

Puzzle: BCC-006 Closing date for entries: 12/12/09 Entries to: The GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL. *Email entries to : andrew@bridgendchessclub.org.uk*

Name
Answer To Puzzle
Email
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THE GEM - 26TH NOVEMBER 2009

Answer: Answer: Puzzle BCC-004

1. cxd3 c2 2. dxc4 cxd1(Q) 3. cxb5#. No winner.

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Power lunch for the Young at Heart Club

Christmas came early for the Rhoose Young At Heart Club as they sat down to lunch, courtesy of Aberthaw Power Station.

The donation meant that the group, who normally meet on Wednesday at Celtic Leisure Centre in Fonmon, had a three-course lunch with all the trimmings.

"We are very grateful to Aberthaw Power Station for supporting the club and it was nice to see everyone there enjoying themselves," said club treasurer Mrs J Sims.

South Wales Police calling time on the traffic wardens?

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

TRAFFIC wardens are set to disappear from the streets of the neighbouring Vale by the end of next year.

South Wales Police have announced that they will no longer enforce parking restrictions and other traffic orders – in order to save money.

They had intended to withdraw from April 1 next year, but have now agreed to postpone that until December 31, 2010.

Councils now have the power to enforce double yellow lines and other restrictions, and could appoint their own wardens to 'police' the borough. Police have been urging councils in South Wales to decriminalise parking and introduce civil parking enforcement.

A report to the Vale's cabinet has laid out all the implications involved. Councils have to apply to the Welsh Assembly Government to assume the powers necessary.

All fines imposed from parking are retained by the council to pay for the cost of employing the wardens.

Council officers have warned that illegal and obstructive parking can create a serious road hazard as well as congestion.

They said that illegally parked vehicles can interfere with the free flow of traffic, stop the movement of emergency vehicles and buses and also affect driver visibility, screening pedestrians and cyclists.

At the moment, police employ two traffic wardens in the Vale, but officers warn that this number will reduce over the next year as wardens seek new jobs and they are unlikely to be replaced.

They point out that by next December, there may be very little enforcement by police of parking restrictions.

Councils that have already introduced civil enforcement have had mixed results, with some eventually covering their costs from the fines, but others have failed to do so and have had to subsidise the scheme from other income.

Authorities throughout the South Wales Police area are affected and the Vale cabinet has agreed to co-operate with Bridgend County Borough Council, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr in commissioning a study to look at all the issues.

SEWTA (South East Wales Transport Alliance) will also contribute £10,000 towards the cost. Each council will pay between £3,000 and £5,000.

The cabinet will receive a further report once this study has been completed and will then make a decision.

FIVE-YEAR TRANSPORT PLAN FOR BRIDGEND ROA D LINKS

A SERIES of road and rail transport improvements throughout Bridgend county borough have been included in the Regional Transport five-year plan.

Bids for funding from the Welsh Assembly Government are being submitted by SEWTA – the South-East Wales Transport Alliance.

The road schemes on the list mainly concentrate on improvements to the A48 from Waterton through to Laleston.

There are plans to improve the Ewenny and Broadlands roundabouts and also to dual the road along this stretch.

Studies of the road from Ewenny roundabout to Redhill roundabout have been completed and the estimated cost of the work is £7m.

A study on the Waterton to Ewenny stretch is still awaited. Roundabout improvements are priced at £1.7m

The scheme also includes interchange and rail scheme improvements.

The Bridgend interchange, which will be a mini bus station on land adjoining the railway station, is due to be carried out in the next financial year and will cost £2.8m.

Improvements to the Maesteg rail service to introduce half hourly trains and build a station at Brackla are being carried out by the Welsh Assembly Government as part of the Wales Rail Forward programme.

A half-hourly service on the Vale line to Barry is also being provided.

The plans include:

- Bus corridor improvements along the Maesteg to Bridgend route via Tondu and Aberkenfig.
- Provision of a park and ride at Pencoed railway station and also at Sarn and Wildmill.
- Park and share schemes are also planned for the motorway junctions at Pencoed and Sarn.
- Porthcawl bus park and ride scheme is being planned as part of the regeneration scheme.

Plans are also included for improvements to walking and cycling routes in the borough.

NEWTON PORTHCAWL WI BRANCH

TÏHE monthly meeting (the last of 2009) was held on December 3, in Gilgal Church Hall, Woodland Ave.

The first thing on our agenda was to give a big thank you to all concerned for helping with the Christmas fayre.

A good day was enjoyed by those who went to Cardiff to 'Deck the Halls'.

The next event discussed was the Christmas carol festival in the Brangwyn Hall on December 7, followed on December 9 by the branch carol service, which was held at Gilgal Baptist Church, Park Avenue.

The Christmas party will be held on January 20, and will be a Faith and Hope supper, followed by entertainment in the shape of 'Sounds Familiar', a much-loved local singing group.

The luncheon club will meet in the Salt house on January 27 (12pm–12.30pm).

For information about the WI, contact Judy on 01656 785427, or Pearl on 01656 782556. **BM**

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YOUNG MUSICIANS SHOW THAT THEY HAVE THE 'WOW' FACTOR

AUDIENCES were enthralled by the performances of the finalists in the concerts on Saturday and Sunday evenings for the Music in the Vale Young Musician of the Year competition.

The annual competition saw singers aged from 10-22 years of age and instrumentalists from 10-20 perform a wide range of music, culminating in the two evening concerts.

On Saturday, adjudicators Mair Roberts and Alun John started auditions for singers at 9.30am and heard competitors in three age categories, before choosing four from each group to perform in the evening concert.

In many cases, it proved a daunting task, as the pieces ranged from folk songs to operatic arias and the standard was high.

Some had competed in previous years, but for others it was their first performance opportunity.

Peter Reynolds and Michael Parkin adjudicated the instrumentalists on Sunday and heard a variety of instruments – bassoon, classical guitar, a number of harps as well as piano, cello and flute.

There were also four ensembles – one with three pianists playing on the same piano and another with a quartet of saxophonists!

Again the performances were exceptional and made it difficult for the judges to choose the finalists for the evening concert.

All the judges expressed their delight at the high standard of music they heard and encouraged the competitors to take every opportunity to perform in front of an audience.

They were keen to emphasise the value of competing, even if you were not the winner.

All competitors benefited from their detailed written adjudications.

As part of its aim to encourage young musical talent, Music in the Vale is able to offer winners and runners-up opportunities to perform in the foyer of the Wales Millennium Centre, as well as at the Senedd.

Music in the Vale is very grateful to local AM Jane Hutt, Minister for Education, who has supported the competition for many years and enjoyed the concerts on both evenings.

The AM said: "I was thrilled by two nights of outstanding performances from young singers and instrumentalists as a result of Music in the Vale's competition.

"We are very proud of our talented young people who performed so well, and I would like to congratulate them on all their hard work. I would also like to thank Music in the Vale for their tremendous voluntary efforts."

The weekend events were supported by many local dignitaries and Music in the Vale is fortunate to have sponsorship from the Vale Council, which helps to fund the annual competition.

The committee was also grateful to the comperes on both evenings who ensured the concerts ran smoothly, Dr Glenda Jones on Saturday and Dr David Hoskin on Sunday.

COMPETITION RESULTS

Young singer: Junior soloists, first prize, Mabli Tudur; runner-up, Seren Fflyr Hamilton. Intermediate soloists, first prize, Lisa Medi, runner-up, Rhydian Jenkins. Senior soloists, first prize, Rachel Marsh; runner-up, Phillippa Scammell.

A prize was also awarded to Nicola Caldwell for the Most Promising Young Singer living in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Young instrumentalist: Junior soloists, first prize, Noa Gabay (harp); runner-up, - NJ Horner (flute); Intermediate soloists, first prize, Rachel Starritt (piano), runner-up, Ben Tarlton (cello). Senior soloists, first prize, Leanne Cody (piano); runner-up, Daniel Gooch (saxophone).

Ensemble, first prize, Asa Sax Quartet, runner-up, Sain Pur (harp and flute)

A further prize was awarded to Ben Tarlton for Most Promising Young instrumentalist living in the Vale of Glamorgan .**RH**

Instrument Ensemble Asa Sax Quartet.

Young instrumentalist, Leanne Cody.

Young singer, Rachel Marsh.

Local inventor praised for gold medal exploits

VALE AM, Jane Hutt, recently met Wenvoe-based inventor of pioneering marine rescue aid, Cadarn Talon, Rob Stone, who won double gold and platinum awards at the British Invention Awards.

"Rob Stone is one of the first inventors in Wales to benefit from the Assembly Government's £36 million business innovation programme, supported by European funds, bringing business to two local companies, SARO Engineering Ltd and Newport and Dragon Laser Ltd of Bridgend," Ms Hutt said.

"I was keen to meet Rob Stone to congratulate him on his great achievement and to hear more about his invention which presents major opportunities for Marine Rescue on a commercial basis.

"I was impressed with the invention which Rob showed me, and his commitment to supporting Welsh businesses is exemplary," she commented.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR
Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

CONGRATULATIONS – A new baby boy has been born to the new family hairdressers at The Old Post Office, St Brides Major.

OGMORE BY SEA Retired Residents Association met for their last meeting of the year at the Watermill, Ogmore village for their Christmas lunch.

THE Southerndown branch of the Women's Institute acted as hostesses to the local WI group when they joined for carols at St Bridget's Church, St Brides Major, followed by mince pies and coffee.

THE sun shone for the church Christmas fayre held at the church hall. There were lots of stalls laden with Christmas goodies, tombola, super raffles and face-painting, raising about £800.

A-Z raffle at the Heritage Coast Centre on December 6 was followed by a quiz arranged by Ranger Paul Dunn, with local bird song and 'guess things' that can be seen on the shore – a most interesting afternoon followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

ON December 8, parishioners met at the Fox and Hounds for a meal to celebrate the birthday of Sheila Morris (Vicar's wife) which now entitles her to a 'bus pass'. Congratulations and many happy returns!

IT is said to report the death of Mary Davies of Slade, Southerndown, after a long illness bravely borne. The funeral service took place at St Bridget's Church, St Brides Major on Wednesday, December 9.

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Welsh wing wizard Shane arrives at local school's Christmas fayre (complete with dodgy hamstring!)

ON balance, Wales' flying winger Shane Williams would probably have preferred to be available to play for the Barbarians against New Zealand but, despite the disappointment of suffering a hamstring strain, he still made the trip to the Vale for Pendoylan Church-in-Wales School's Christmas fayre.

The winger was the centre of attention, and young and old were all keen to pass on their best wishes and, of course, to have their photograph taken with him!

PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON

Christmas spectacular at St David's Hall

RECENTLY a full minibus left Llanharry on a very wet morning, bound for St David's Hall, Cardiff, for the WI's 'Deck the Hall for Christmas'.

Demonstrations, workshops, stands and competitions stretched over the whole of the five floors. It really was a spectacular day, very much enjoyed by all.

An extra meeting was held the following evening and Deuanne Griffiths gave a floral demonstration. Four arrangements were skilfully put together and many tips and ideas passed on.

Llanharry Workingmen's Club was again the venue for Christmas dinner on December 1. Members were looked after very well by Graham and Jane Ryan, who provided a delicious traditional dinner. Elizabeth Jervis also celebrated her birthday.

Rita Butt was presented with The Joan Thomas Shield for winning the most competitions. Ros Griffiths won the prize for the best wrapped parcel.

The next night 14 members joined the 'Bordervale Group' for a Christmas social evening, hosted by Ystradowen WI.

Refreshments and mulled win were enjoyed, and each of the our institutes took part in the entertainment. The evening concluded with everyone singing traditional Christmas carols.

The final meeting of the lunch club is on December 11, at the Bear Inn, Llanharry.

New programmes have been distributed and 'comic characters from stage to screen' is the title for the talk on January 5. **JR**

NEWS FROM THE LLANHARRY WI

'Tenants are being excluded'

I HAVE been reading in the local press of the proposal to transfer the Vale housing stock.

I enjoy the provision of Vale Council Housing (call it social housing if you must).

I have concluded, quite early in the process of so-called consultation, that there exists a view residents of council housing are gullible and devoid of any intellect with which to determine the pros and cons of such a proposal. However, such a stance is taken by those in power at their peril!

I believe that the initial notification that we have been given as existing tenants, amounts to little more than designed propaganda geared to ensure the desired outcome, and that many decisions have already been made.

Also, I am concerned about possible empire-building.

If a new housing association is set up, I would advocate that if the existing senior management of the current housing stock are unable to make the current operation a success, they should be automatically disqualified from applying for posts in any new housing association management.

I am so concerned that local people and tenants are being excluded from having their say based upon factual and current information that.

I have set up my own web blog at *http://scrutinisevalecouncil.blogspot.com.*

Colin Wood,
Barry

'AUTHORITIES SHOULD ACT MORE DECISIVELY AGAINST THE BULLIES'

– SAYS FATHER OF SCHOOLBOY

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A BARRY couple, whose teenage son has had two breakdowns due to bullying, claim too much time was devoted to understanding the bullies rather than acting decisively against them.

The couple came to The GEM because they wanted to highlight what they perceive as a flaw in the way the authorities confront the blight of classroom bullying.

The father of the boy, once a teacher himself, explained: "The trouble is that the teachers approach the problem with a humanistic attitude of trying to understand, rather than dealing with it.

"Bullying initiatives are too woolly and liberal."

The youngster told The GEM: "My problems started in October 2005. I was physically, verbally and emotionally bullied. I was frequently hit, although not to the extent of being knocked out.

"Prior to that date I'd had problems, but a senior pastoral carer at the school dealt with things and gave me good strategies to cope."

Things deteriorated when that teacher retired, and a group of seven pupils, with a hardcore of five, made his life miserable for the next four years.

He said: "The new pastoral carer did not seem to know what he was doing.

He told me: 'I'll speak to them and get it sorted', but it got worse and worse."

The family cite the 'safe zone' strategy at the school, in which a victimised pupil goes to a particular room to escape the bullies, as a misconceived idea.

The father explained: "It means the victim is isolated, while the bullies retain their liberty.

"They were spoken to but not disciplined.

"To deal with this problem a teacher has to be properly trained, but has to have something else too – courage, backbone and fortitude.

"The teacher has to be prepared to fight the perpetrators, their parents and sometimes even their colleagues – but this didn't happen."

The father added that he attributed the success of the first teacher to the fact that he was "old school, and would not put up with any nonsense".

The teenager suffers from dyspraxia – in his case it manifests itself as poor co-ordination skills and a lack of spatial awareness, which means he can stand closer to someone than would be the accepted social norm. The family say the school have always been aware of the problems he faces.

Last Christmas, the teenager had a breakdown and the family say their GP said he would not return to school "until I deem fit".

He was off until February, but two days after returning the bullying started again.

The family say the pastoral carer even said that he "couldn't guarantee his safety".

At the end of September, he was forced to leave again.

The teenager said: "I was so relieved to know that I wouldn't have to be dealing with stupid things like that any more."

His mother said: "He has been put under sedation because he has been petrified.

"At least now he doesn't wander round the house saying 'don't hit me, don't hit me'."

The family now believe there is no solution to the impasse that exists between them and the school, and that their son will have to stay at home permanently.

The father said: "Because he has been failed, he will probably have to have a home tutor.

"He is not the only person to have suffered this at the school. We know of another case of a child with dyspraxia who has also had to leave."

The Vale's director of learning and development, Bryan Jeffreys, stated:

"The council is not in a position to comment on the circumstances of a case involving an individual pupil.

"We can confirm, however, that the facts of this case are a matter of dispute.

"All Vale of Glamorgan schools have clear and unambiguous anti-bullying policies and procedures, which have been adopted following consultations with pupils," Mr Jeffreys concluded.

FRIENDS OF DYFFRYN NEWS

Bee experts create a 'buzz' at Friends meeting

THE first Friends of Dyffryn coffee morning created a real 'buzz' with members!

More than 30 'Friends' turned up to listen to bee experts Harold Williams, who manages the bees at Fonmon Castle, and Barbara Chick, who manages the bee hives at St Fagan's, talk about reintroducing bee hives to Dyffryn Gardens.

Three hives have been installed in the gardens and it is hoped Dyffryn honey will be on sale next year.

It has been around 80 years since there were bee hives in the historic garden and it is hoped the project will raise awareness of how precious honey bees are to the environment.

Honey bees are worth £200m to Britain's economy.

It is estimated that every third mouthful of food we eat is pollinated by bees – but they are disappearing at an alarming rate.

Friends heard that honey bees were under threat from varroa, a parasitic mite that attacks honeybees. It came to the UK in the 1980s. Honey bees can't cope with it. It feeds on the body of the bee, transmitting various viruses before the bee colony finally collapses. Other threats include climate change, insecticides and loss of habitat.

Two of the three hives at Dyffryn have come from long established bee hives at Fonmon Castle and in Caerphilly.

The third hive is the result of a swarm of honey bees that attached themselves to a church in Cardiff. It was collected and brought to Dyffryn by Barbara Chick, who will manage the Dyffryn apiary.

To encourage people to take up bee keeping, Dyffryn Gardens is running a beginners bee keeping course in February 2010.

The course will run over four afternoons. The dates are: Sunday, February 7, Saturday, February 20, Sunday, February 28 and Saturday, March 6.

The sessions will run from 1pm-5pm.

Chairman of the Cardiff and Vale Beekeepers Association, John King, is collecting names. There has been a great deal of interest so a waiting list has been set up.

Barbara (far left) and Harold (far right) with Friends after the meeting.

by ELERI EVANS

PORTHCAWL NEWS/IN BRIEF

PORTHCAWL Town Council has been presented with a plaque by the Porthcawl Lifeguards for its help to the club over the years.

PORTHCAWL Lions raised £500 at their book fayre.

THE new gates installed at the entrance to Newton Allotments have been given the nod of approval from the Charity Commission.

The Commission stated that it was in order for the trustees of the site to give consent for the gates.

A MEETING of the dog fouling group at Porthcawl is to meet before the end of the year to discuss what impact the doggie road show and the distribution of dog fouling awareness posters has had upon the town.

Enforcement officers from BCBC will be asked to attend.

Coun Chris Smart said that the council should remember that it had a policy of zero tolerance towards dog fouling.

PORTHCAWL Town Council is to apply to Bovril for a grant under their Great Outdoor Revival theme to pay towards installing a sensory garden at the Wilderness site.

PORTHCAWL Town Council has made a grant of £350 towards the Christmas Morning Swim, but applications from Shelter Cymru, Bobath Children's Therapy Centre and the National Eisteddfod were refused.

A PROPOSAL from Coun Sean Aspey to consider a Christmas Day Alone Project has been ruled out by Porthcawl Town Council.

He wanted the council to organise a Christmas lunch for residents of the town who would be spending Christmas Day alone. Members felt that it was a commendable project but was not practicable for the council to do.

PORTHCAWL town councillors who wish to have business cards can do so at their own expense and can use the council's crest.

PORTHCAWL Town Council is to seek estimates of the cost of providing a pavement between Mallard Way at Rest Bay and the Ocean View Flats. Once this information has been received, the Capital Project Committee will consider the project.

THE maintenance man employed by Porthcawl Town Council on a part-time basis is to become a full time employee from April, because of the amount of work needed to be done.

COUN Alana Davies is to investigate the cost implications of providing a pedestrian crossing on Newton Nottage Road and will report back to Porthcawl Council's capital projects committee.

KERRY Marlowe of the Porthcawl Athletic Association, is to be invited to meet members of Porthcawl Town Council to explain what work is needed to be done at the playing fields in Lock's Lane.

THE annual Jenkin Henry Tea takes place on Saturday, at the Porthcawl Rest Home.

The tea is for the oldest residents of the town and the town council will be hiring mini buses to take people to the event.

PORTHCAWL town council is to ask BCBC for suggestions about where extra toilet facilities may be needed in the town.

A report will be made to the capital projects committee.

Travel shop collects for Ty Hafan

THE annual Santa's Suitcase appeal organised by staff in the Co-operative Travel Shop in Llantwit Major is underway.

Each year, the shop collects either new or good quality second hand toys and games for the children at Ty Hafan.

"We had a car full last time," said manager Bennie Bryan. "I am hoping we can at least match that this year."

The appeal is run by the company nationally and many branches take part.

"We need items for all ages," she added. "Ty Hafan caters for children from babies up to teenagers."

People wishing to donate items should drop them off, unwrapped, to the shop.

"We need to examine everything that comes in so it's better if it is not packed," she said. "We will be collecting right up until December 22."

The Cowbridge Gallery
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Cowbridge Gallery is pleased to display a wide variety of original art from established and emerging artists, from the timeless works of **Aneurin Jones** to the wonderfully vibrant paintings of **Helen Elliott**.
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Downturn leads to extra housing benefit caseload

THERE has been a six per cent increase in the number of people claiming housing and council tax benefits in Bridgend county borough over the past year.

The benefits section at the council paid out more than £41m in benefits during 2008-09 – an increase of £4m over the previous year.

A report to the council's audit committee revealed that this reflected economic conditions in the area.

Caseload has also increased by six per cent over this period.

During a check of the department by the internal auditors, it was found that the section has "robust controls" and a "number of strengths and good practices were identified".

This includes collecting money overpaid to claimants and promoting the take up of benefits by those entitled to them.

However, one issue raised during the check was the practice of staff using white boards to record data about on-going fraud investigations.

The boards are fully visible to anyone who visits the section and there are concerns that this could jeopardise on-going cases and also infringe data protection.

Motorists warned after rise in thefts from cars

POLICE in Porthcawl are warning motorists to be on the alert, following a spate of thefts from cars in the Pyle and Cornelly areas.

Porthcawl neighbourhood Inspector Alan James said: "In recent days, we have dealt with a number of cases involving the theft from motorcars of audio systems and personal possessions.

"While the Christmas period is a very busy time for everyone, it is important for motorists not to become complacent and there are common sense measures that can be taken to help to reduce the chances of becoming a victim of crime.

"Never, even for a moment, leave your keys in the ignition or leave any of the doors unlocked.

" It takes just a matter of seconds for an opportunist thief to rifle your vehicle for valuables or drive it away.

"Do not leave any valuables in your car, always take them with you. If you have a removable radio, take that away, too."

Inspector James also reminded drivers that the increasing popularity of satellite navigation systems has provided criminals with another temptation.

He continued: "Where a 'sat-nav' system is portable, keep it safe by removing it, together with the support cradle and suction pads, when you leave the car.

"Always remember to wipe away any suction pad marks left on the widescreen or dashboard, as thieves will look out for these."

Pupils graduate from Ogmore Dragon firefighting programme

THIS week, 10 pupils from the Ogmore Comprehensive School graduated from the Dragon programme run by South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

The Welsh Assembly Government funded programme was launched at Malpas Fire Station three years ago and has evolved into a premier youth programme.

Over 250 children have enjoyed the 12-week firefighting course designed to improve the pupils' community spirit, raise achievement and increase educational engagement.

For one day each week, a group of 14 and 15 year olds from the school attended Ogmore Vale Community Fire Station and had the unique opportunity to work with firefighters in an environment of discipline and inclusion, so as to raise their own self esteem. The youngsters train as firefighters learn about fire, road and water safety.

Station manager Tony Burridge who heads the programme said:

"The programme is aimed at young people whose needs are not fully being met in the classroom environment.

"It provides a fire and rescue-themed educational experience designed to complement and enhance the school curriculum.

By using the fundamental fire service principles of communication, team work and discipline, it aims to raise achievement, improve self motivation, increase educational engagement and develop practical skills and life skills.

"We've had excellent feedback from the courses so far, with very positive comments from pupils, parents and teachers."

At the end of the 12 weeks, if they have attended both the fire station and their schools regularly, the students attend a two-day outreach course, in partnership with the Ynys Hywel Outdoor Education Centre, run by Caerphilly County Council, which also focuses on team building, life skills activities and outdoor pursuits.

Enhancing the young person's personal social and educational development is a key aim;

"This term pupils achieved a Heartstart certificate in recognition of first aid training and compiled a portfolio of evidence for submission to The Open College Network Wales.

This is an important development for South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, being able to deliver quality programmes for young people with accreditation to a respected framework such as the Open College. The award of credits reinforces the intentions of the Dragon Programme and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service to support the young person's journey through education and into the workplace," Mr Burridge added.

Police probe after 'nasty' street attack

BRIDGEND police are investigating after a 32-year-old man was assaulted on Saturday, November 21, while walking along Coity Road at about 5pm.

They said he was set upon by a group of unknown males, most of whom were wearing dark hooded tops, with one wearing a light coloured hooded top. He was punched and kicked to the floor and sustained injuries that needed hospital treatment.

PC Suzette Williams of Bridgend Police, commented: "This was a nasty unprovoked attack. The incident happened too quickly for the victim to be able to get any descriptions of his assailants.

"However, he recalls a blue-coloured car passing along the street and as he was making his way along the road after the attack, a member of the public enquired as to his well being.

"We would like to hear from anyone who was on Coity Road around 5pm, particularly in the vicinity of Greyfriars Court and who may have information regarding this incident."

Contact PC Williams at Bridgend police station on 101 or via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Blood donor session

THE Welsh Blood Service will hold a revised blood donation session on Friday December 18, in Bridgend Recreation Centre at 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-6pm (and not Tesco Bridgend as previously advertised).

Nantymoel burglaries: two are arrested

FOLLOWING a spate of burglaries and autocrime in Nantymoel, police have arrested a 29-year-old man and a 23-year-old woman on suspicion of burglary.

A house on Cardigan Terrace was burgled sometime between 9.30pm on Sunday, November 29 and 8am the following morning. A second house, on nearby Dinam Street, was burgled sometime between 3.10pm and 6.45pm on November 30.

The two were also helping police with their investigation into the theft of a car from the same area and the theft of a handbag from a car, a South Wales Police spokesman stated.

JC Electric Ltd – keeping people warm this Christmas

BASED at Brynmenyn Industrial Estate, Bridgend, JC Electric are electrical wholesalers and are one of Wales' leading stockists of Dimplex heating products.

The company supplies a large range from stylish fires through to storage heaters and towel rail heaters.

JC Electric Limited has a fully illustrated, user friendly website, showing products in use, along with a full price list, product size and specifications. A delivery service is available thought the UK and Europe.

A spokesman said: "Why not keep warm this Christmas with a Dimplex heating product. Switch on the 'log effect' fire, turn up the 'flame effect stove' and relax as we reach the peak of the festive season!

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PENCOED UNDER-9s WIN LOCAL DOUBLE HEADER

PENCOED under-9s welcomed Kenfig Hill to the Verlands on Sunday for their first fixture of this season.

Late arrivals were Bridgend Athletic, keen to play after their game against Aberdare was rained off.

PENCOED 5,
KENFIG HILL 2

THE conditions were dry but ground conditions were heavy under foot so forward play was the order of the day. Pencoed started well with Oliver Lewis, Rhys Spurgeon and Owain John tackling hard as Kenfig attacked down the middle.

Turning over ball, Mikey Bosley and Cael Chamberlain kept driving through the defensive line to set up attacks. Handling was difficult as the slippery ball popped out of passes time after time, and Pencoed's excellent ball skills were difficult to perform, but Tom Bending broke away and went over for the only try of the half.

Kenfig's rucking and mauling was excellent and they began to knock the home side back. On one such occasion they were away down the wing and five metres from the line when Mikey Bosley chased down and made an excellent tackle from behind.

Ben Humphries and Rhys Bending were in support and passed to Sam Costelow, who punted it to half way, chased his kick and when the ball came from the resulting maul he ran over for Pencoed's second try.

Some passes were now going to hand and Jack Rowlands and Jonathan Carr made space for Sam Costelow to score twice. Tyrone Harding ran the length of the half, beating the cover tacklers for a well deserved fifth try. A convincing win but Kenfig showed they will be a side in the future.

PENCOED 5,
BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 1

THE Athletic brought their strongest side to this fixture and were fully charged to get their first victory over the District champions, as the conditions favoured their game of forward play.

Tom Bending ran in a try after the home side began to dominate, with Cael Chamberlain, Rhys Spurgeon and Owain John pushing the visitors back.

The Ath ran in a try just before the interval to leave themselves a chance to get back.

On the whistle of the restart, Ben Humphries hit the gain line, popped the ball to Mikey Bosley who pushed aside tacklers to go over for Pencoed's second.

This team are relentless if they sniff a victory and, as the conditions worsened, they passed the ball from side to side with Jonathan Carr and Sam Costelow terrorising the Ath's defence.

Mikey Bosley decided it was time for the third and burst though with help from Oliver Lewis and Jack Rowlands . Jonathan Carr ran in a classy fourth and the crowd were entertained with the try of the game when Cael Chamberlain, who had been a menace to the visiting forwards all day, pushed back a maul almost single handedly, and drove five defenders five metres to score Pencoeds fifth try.

The Ath were committed to the end and indeed held up two try opportunities from Pencoed who were over the line. The Bridgend side will have to wait until next season to try to score a victory over their rivals.

Man of the match was Cael Chamberlain for his best performance of the season by far. Team: Oliver Lewis (captain), Jack Rowlands, Ben Humphries, Tom Bending, Rhys Bending, Sam Costelow, Owain Johns, Mikey Bosley, Rhys Spurgeon, Tyron Harding and Jonathon Carr.

MB

Porthcawl under-15s sweep Ystrad aside

PORTHCAWL played away at Ystradgynlais in the group stage of the under-15s Ospreys Cup, and a semi-final place was at stake.

Porthcawl started strongly against a strong wind. The forwards, who were well led by captain Jack Williams, powered into rucks and mauls. Ben Smith relished the contact area and Jack Taylor was first to every breakdown.

This set the platform for the impressive Josh White to orchestrate the game from outside-half. Geraint Watkins was solid as a rock at full-back and was looking to run the ball at every opportunity.

Continued pressure resulted in two excellent tries from Lloyd Rosser Stanford and Huw Mitchell.

Their pace and strength gave the visitors a 10-point lead.

It was a fierce battle up front and James Baynham, together with Dan Evans, Emyr Wyle, Owen Wright and Evan Williams, were hungry for the ball. Ben Smith made it three tries to nil just before half-time after good inter-passing by Declan Brown, Huw Mitchell and Josh White.

Straight from the resumption, Owen Wright fielded a high kick. Beating six Ystradgynlais defenders, his pace and 'Forest Gump'-style running, gave him the try of the season, a 60-metre effort.

Ystradgynlais were then penalised at a ruck and received a red card. Scrum-half Connor Rees was linking well with his ever-present back row, with Jack Taylor outstanding all game.

Good inter-passing allowed Tom Bluck to score wide out. Bluck capped an excellent performance by scoring his second try.

A consolation try by the despondent home side made the final score 7-32 points, to a well-drilled Porthcawl outfit.

Bridgend under-12s win, despite their 'wayward' parents!

BRIDGEND TOWN under-12s played Aberkenfig and the cliche 'a game of two halves' could have been written for this match.

Bridgend managed to turn around a half-time 3-1 deficit to finish the game 6-3 victors, thanks to five second-half goals from Matthew Morgan. This was their second consecutive win on the road, and takes Bridgend up to fifth in the league.

On a day when some of the Bridgend parents' geography let them down, the team seemed to be suffering from the same problem. Starting with no substitutes and a re-arranged formation, their opening play let them down badly and they soon found themselves 1-0 down to a simple, but well-finished goal by Aberkenfig.

It wasn't long before the home team doubled the scoring with another clean finish, and despite Bridgend starting to attack strongly, the difference was clearly in the finishing, as the visitors went into the half-time break 3-1 down, Liam Howe having reduced the deficit.

It was hoped that the arrival of the rest of Bridgend's squad at half-time would signal a change in their fortunes, and indeed the second half belonged exclusively to the away team, and in particular to man-of-the-match Matthew Morgan, who notched up an incredible five goals without reply to end the game 6-3 winners.

With an away trip to league leaders Maesteg Park next week, Bridgend will be travelling with plenty of confidence, and (hopefully) a new Satnav.

CHILDREN FOUND IN PUB LEADS TO HEAVY FINE FOR SUPERVISOR

POLICE officers and environmental staff on official visits to a well-known Bridgend pub saw young children on the premises – a breach of the licence – a court has heard.

Bridgend magistrates heard that over the weekend of April 24 – 26, numerous telephone calls were received by environmental health officers from people complaining about the noise at the Princess of Wales pub on Market Street.

On May 1, a noise abatement notice was served on the premises supervisor, Kevin Darks, by an environmental health officer.

During the visit, officers from the department noted a breach of the licence when they saw a child, believed to be less than two years of age, in the arms of a customer while she was dancing in the bar.

On August 13, during 'Operation Ringo', a drugs operation in Bridgend town centre, the safer Bridgend licensing officer, PC Kevin Ellis, along with other officers, attended at the Princess of Wales, when Mr Darks was again present.

Police found a five-year-old child sitting on a bar stool.

PC Ellis said: "The customer base and reported incidents are such that to have anyone at the premises who is under the age of 18 years may be considered an extremely serious breach of the license, as this restricted condition was specifically put in place to promote the protection of children from harm."

Darks was reported for breaching licence conditions, and although he did not attend court, the matter was proved in his absence.

He was fined £350 for each charge of operating other than in accordance with the licence, and told to pay costs of £100, and a £15 victim surcharge.

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Council decide to take legal action over Maesteg scrap metal farm

FURTHER enforcement action is to be taken against the owner of a Maesteg farm where scrap cars, metal and debris are being stored.

In a report prepared by council officers, Bridgend planners heard that enforcement action was taken in 1996 against the owner of Sychbant Farm.

He was ordered to stop using the land for the storage of vehicles and vehicle bodies not associated with farm use, and to remove all of these items from the land.

The order also required him to stop storing scrap material, building materials and other discarded items and to remove them.

In 1997, the owner pleaded guilty in court to failing to comply with the notice and was fined.

Further complaints were made to planners in 2003 and 2006 about the accumulation of cars and rubbish and the owner was advised to clear them from the farm. Officers monitored the farm for a few months.

However, the report to the development control committee revealed that vehicles and scrap materials are again present and are stored on the land, near the farm house which is covered by the 1996 enforcement notice.

The report goes on: "The site is located in the open countryside within a landscape conservation area and the Cwm Sychbant Historic Landscape.

"The land has been monitored on a regular basis since the owner took an undertaking to remove all the items not associated with the agricultural use of this land. Officers have met with the owner on site several times and the owner confirmed that the removal of material was on-going.

"Observations on site confirm that while some vehicles/material may have been removed, no significant progress has been made."

The report adds: "The farmhouse and associated land is located within an attractive valley setting. The land is overlooked by residential properties which are located on the hillside to the north (Maesteg Parc Housing Estate.)

"There has been an evident lack of progress, coupled with an apparent lack of commitment by the owner in respect of the removal of the materials and vehicles.

"The appearance of the land is having an adverse effect on visual amenity and I consider that further enforcement action should be pursued."

It was agreed to apply for an injunction under the Town and Country Planning Act to secure the removal of vehicles and materials from the farm.

Bridgend's new bridge meanders over budget

THE controversial river walkway along the river Ogmore in Bridgend, which has attracted criticism as well as praise, has come in £220,000 over budget – and this shortfall will have to be met by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) from its own funds.

The corporate resources scrutiny committee heard that adverse weather during the summer, plus extra external fees, were to blame for increasing the cost of the project in Bridgend town centre.

The project was funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and from EU grants.

Caerau Primary School is also running at £665,000 over budget on a £7m scheme.

Again, councillors were told that adverse weather last autumn saw the project fall behind schedule and come in over budget.

The school is due to be completed by Christmas.

The demolition of Blaencaerau Junior School, which has already been approved, is expected to cost a further £200,000.

The new school will cater for pupils from Blaencaerau, Blaenllynfi Infants and Caerau Nursery.

The nursery school has already been demolished as the children were transferred to Blaenllynfi.

A decision about demolishing Blaenllfynfi has been deferred to give a local community group a chance to see if taking over the school for community use would be viable.

Police appeal after two men are assaulted

BRIDGEND CID is appealing for witnesses, following an assault outside The Station Café, Caerau Road, Maesteg, at around 11.45pm on Monday, December 7.

Detective Sergeant Paul Mason of Bridgend CID said: "We are investigating an incident where two males were assaulted outside The Station Café and both sustained serious facial injuries and received hospital treatment at Princess of Wales.

"Two males aged 24 and 21 from the Maesteg area are currently in custody being questioned by detectives.

"Another male is outstanding and is actively being sought by officers.

"I'm appealing to anyone who witnessed the assault, or has information that may assist us, to contact us at Bridgend CID."

Telephone Bridgend CID on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Award for council's finance boss

BRIDGEND County Borough Council's resources director Gareth Moss has been named Finance Director of the Year in this year's LGC Finance Awards.

The evening, hosted by the BBC's Bill Turnbull, brought together more than 150 key officers to recognise the local government finance sector.

Gareth said: "I am delighted to have won and to be the first winner from a Welsh local authority."

Emma Maier, editor of LGC magazine added: "It has been a tough year for all in finance and it is important to reward the teams and individuals who have worked hard to out-perform expectation in challenging circumstances."

BCBC chief executive Jo Farrar said: "It always good to see our staff being recognised and rewarded for their work. On behalf of the, council, I'd like to offer my congratulations to Gareth for this achievement."

BLAENGARW PUPILS GET OUT IN THE RAIN DURING NATIONAL TREE PLANTING WEEK

PUPILS from Blaengarw Primary School recently braved the rain, to plant trees in the village's community orchard.

The school was working with local group Creation Development Trust, and also with local volunteers. The school's headteacher, Margaret Lugg, explained: "We hope that in 20 years or so, when the trees have matured, it will be a great place for a picnic."

Chris Jones from Creation said: "We were given a great start by a lady from Bryncethin who donated 14 horse chestnut trees.

"Also, we had donations from Homebase in Bridgend, and from Wyevale Garden centre in Pyle."

The pupils will be out again tomorrow (Friday) to finishe the planting and they will be hoping for better weather,

However, their headteacher doesn't hold out much hope. Margaret Lugg joked: "The pupils have been to so many open-air events this year when it has rained.

"If you look at the school website you would think it always rains here!"

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GLYN EVANS.

'Castles in the air' set out on their mission to India

RECENTLY, Richard and Sonia Castle and their daughter Kerry, previously of Penybont Road, Pencoed, jetted off to India to begin a two-year humanitarian mission in the north-eastern state of Mizoram.

On the previous Monday, the pews of Pencoed Trinity Presbyterian Church were filled with well-wishers as officials of the Presbyterian Church of Wales conducted a service of commission on their mission to Mizoram. Pencoed Trinity, where Richard and Sonia are both elders, has strong links with the Presbyterian Church of Mizoram, as it is the home country of Pencoed Trinity's Minister, Reverend Dr Sanghuma.

There have been regular two-way visits between the churches of the two countries over a number of years.

It was after the Castles had returned from their second visit to Mizoram, that they felt unsettled and decided to follow a calling to go back again on an extended mission.

Richard will be working in The Presbyterian Hospital in Aizawl, where he will help patients suffering from HIV/AIDS.

Sonia plans to help teach English at the local schools and Kerry is looking forward to working with disabled children.

Richard has said that he would miss their two sons and their families, including three grandchildren, the most, but that he hoped to come back after two years, more blessed than they were going, and with a far greater knowledge of other cultures and of their own faith.

In the service of commission, their friend and fellow elder at Trinity, Ruby Humphrey, told the congregation:

"We are all sad to see you go, but you go with our blessing".

Taking a turn at the lectern herself, Sonia thanked everyone for supporting their decision, saying:

"It's strengthened our belief that we are following God's path".

Kerry said she would miss her friends and added her own emotional words of thanks.

500 food warnings are issued in Bridgend county borough

MORE than 500 written warnings were issued to food premises by environmental health offices in Bridgend in the past year.

This information was given to Coun David Unwin, who lodged a question at the full council meeting, which was answered by Coun David Sage, deputy council leader.

The meeting heard that there are 1,209 food premises in the borough which are subject to inspection – and 216 of them have to be inspected every year.

The council is taking on an additional three staff to cope with the extra demands placed on the service as a result of the e-coli outbreak.

The council will also be sending more than one officer at a time to inspect high risk premises to ensure that officers are not misled by food operators.

Officers will also have to ensure that inspection history notes are detailed and up to date, including any discussions that take place with employees at these premises.

Coun Unwin was told that 554 written warnings were issued in 2008-09, plus 55 Hygiene Improvement notices and three Hygiene Emergency prohibition notices.

Pinnies, turbans and irate ARP warden

COITY WI NEWS

COITY WI have enjoyed yet another busy and interesting month; as guests of Brackla WI, who hosted the Penta Penybont Link meeting, they met at Coychurch Memorial Hall for a 'Gala NAAFI Night'.

Landgirls and sailors, mams in wrap-around pinnies and turbans and various members of the armed forces were all represented in a cheerful get-together, only occasionally interrupted by the whistle of an irate ARP warden, who insisted we 'put that light out'.

A two-course meal was prepared from wartime ingredients, followed by 'workers playtime' as entertainment. Coity WI donated a hamper of wartime staples, including spam and condensed milk.

The second outing of the month was to St David's Hall for the very well-attended 'Deck the Hall' – a WI celebration of Christmas which spread over five floors, with demonstrations, competitions and stalls.

The speaker at the November meeting was Mrs A Mahoney, who gave us a seasonal class in napkin folding. It was a fun, hands-on evening, and members enjoyed wrestling with the intricacies of a surprisingly challenging craft.

The month closed with the Friends of Coity WI hosting their 'bag-a-bag' stall at Gilead Christmas fayre.

Who's where at council meetings

THE attendance records for Porthcawl Town Council reveal that Coun Hayley Edwards again attended the least number of meetings.

The Liberal Democrat councillor was criticised a few months ago by Conservative Chris Smart for her poor attendance, and this provoked a political row with Coun Smart accused of bullying a new, young member.

New figures just released for the six months from May to the end of September revealed that out of a possible nine attendances, she had four.

The next lowest attenders were Coun Jen Coombes, Lib Dem; Coun Alana Davies, Labour; Coun Gerald Davies, Lib Dem, and Coun Mary Emment Lewis, Conservative, who each attended six meetings.

The highest attenders with all nine notched up were Coun John Bunker, Labour; Coun David Deere, Coun Rosemary Deere; Coun David Newton Williams and Coun Jill Sweet, all Conservatives.

*Coun Clive Hare was unable to attend any meetings as he has suffered a serious illness.

Carols in the council offices

CHILDREN from local primary schools will perform a series of mini carol concerts at Bridgend County Borough Council's customer service centre in Angel Street throughout December.

Following on from the success of last year's performance by Tremains Junior School, all primary schools were invited to come and sing in the centre as part of the council's Christmas celebrations.

Visitors to the customer service centre will be able to watch and listen to West Park Primary at 10am on December 11, Llangewydd Juniors at 1.30pm on December 14, Ffaldau Primary at 1.30pm on December 16, Plasnewydd Primary at10.30am on December 17 and Tondu Primary at 10am on December 21.

Winter fun day

Brackla Residents Association will be holding its first winter fun day at Brackla Community Centre on Whitethorne Drive (opposite the Triangle) on Saturday, December 12 from 12pm-4pm.

Entry is free with a small charge for some of the activities such as face painting, willow weaving, pottery making and Santa's Grotto. There will also be tombolas, games, food and stalls.

For more information, telephone Brackla Residents Association on 07772 100519.

Out and About with The GEM

Kelly's Box is a beguiling and intriguing proposition

FOR a man who had the cinematic world at his feet, Richard Kelly has certainly slipped off the radar in recent years.

Having blasted onto the public conscious with twisted time travel film *Donnie Darko*, Kelly allowed the iron to cool considerably, following *Darko* up five years later with *Southland Tales*, a future-based epic that forgot to include a decipherable plot in its mix, and met with a considerably lower fanfare than that of its progenitor.

Kelly's latest sees him adapt Richard Matheson's short story, 'Button, Button', itself the inspiration for a *Twilight Zone* episode, with *The Box*. James Marsden and Cameron Diaz are Arthur and Norma Lewis, a suburban couple struggling to make ends meet.

When a mysterious stranger (Frank Langella) arrives on their doorstep one day, he offers them a way out – a box with a red button, and should either of them press the button they will be bequeathed $1million.

The downside, however, is that someone, somewhere, will die as a result, and with only 24 hours for the couple to decide, they must face up to this huge moral dilemma, little realising the magnitude of the decision they are to make...

The Box is a film with an intriguing and highly interesting premise – were a stranger to offer you the same deal being offered to the Lewis', would you take it?

Given the somewhat prescient nature of the film during a period of recession, it is a proposal that some may be inclined to accept, and forms the basis of a film that is never less than absorbing.

It is certainly a peculiar film, taking a moral conundrum and running with it to the furthest reaches of imagination, yet it is to Richard Kelly's credit that he keeps the film motoring along nicely.

Kelly wrote and directed here, and both the script and his direction wear their influences on their sleeve without being too slavish in their devotion.

There is more than a faint nod and wink to the likes of *The Twilight Zone* (unsurprising given the story's origins) and *The Shining*, but Kelly uses these cleverly, the 1970s setting of the film lending itself an ambience that these influences accentuate.

His direction is very much steeped in the 1970s thriller, using plenty of static shots and clever framings to draw maximum impact.

He cleverly uses the film's 12A rating to make the scares that pervade the film more psychological than visceral.

It is here that the similarities to *The Shining* are most apparent, Kelly's cold detachment reminiscent of some of Kubrick's more subdued scares (just watch out for the scarily blank faces of certain characters) which helps to create a mood of both mystery and underlying fear in what may happen next.

His script also does a good job of laying the mystery on while slowly drip feeding the audience information.

It is a neat trick that keeps you captivated throughout and takes the film away from the set-up and into another realm entirely, a move that will either leave you feeling satisfied as the story unfolds or leaves you thinking 'what on earth'.

Personally, it is a shift that works within Kelly's framework, taking the story into an unexpected area that feels very much akin, tonally, to the works that Kelly is both influenced by and pays lip service to.

He draws strong performances from both Cameron Diaz and James Marsden as the couple whose world is turned upside down by the offer they receive.

While the former's accent doesn't quite work out, her performance is strong, capturing beautifully the gamut of emotions that the character is being put through, while Marsden offers up another good turn as the husband who is somewhat perfunctory to the main narrative thrust, but is given purpose by the actor's solid performance.

However, the strongest turn on show is Frank Langella's stranger, offering the world without the victims ever really knowing the true cost of his deal. He is stoic and emotionless, perfectly keeping things hidden until Kelly decides it's time to reveal elements of his character.

Langella's turn, accentuated by some clever effects, is made even scarier by the character's otherworldliness, unaffected by the pleas of the characters whose life he has turned into a living hell.

The film's biggest flaw is, to my mind, also its biggest strength, with its overarching air of puzzlement and questions either a clever way to build up suspense or a frustrating way to pay off such a clever concept – the latter camp may feel that the film is ultimately a case of 'great set-up, poor execution; but if you are in the first camp then *The Box* is perplexing yet thoroughly beguiling film that will both entertain and intrigue.

VERDICT – A return to form for Richard Kelly, *The Box* is a film that may well divide filmgoers, but if you found yourself enjoying *Donnie Darko,* then you'll be on sure footing here.

Raising interesting moral questions while reflecting them through a Twilight Zone prism, it is somewhat of a love-it-or-hate-it experience, but one that is well worth watching.

Enjoyable.

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

TV's Don entertains Dinas Powys Rotary

ON November 26, the members of Dinas Powis Rotary Club had a very special guest at its meeting in Don Llewellyn, a retired award-winning television producer, director and writer.

Don is a life member of Pentyrch RFC, of which he is a former captain and president, and has been a member of the Welsh Rugby Writers' Association for more than three decades.

Don gave a very interesting and humorous talk on experiences in his home village, his work with TV and his passion for the game of rugby.

A notable story was concerning two local men sitting on a park bench in Pentyrch and noticing a TV mast being erected at Wenvoe.

Later the same two men sat on the same bench in the village and noticed a smaller mast being built about one-third of the size alongside – "Oh, I know," said one of the men, "that must be for children's TV."

A vote of thanks was given by Dave Phillips and everyone present joined him in thanking Don for a humorous and interesting speaker's evening.

Local artist hosts charity open day at Penarth

DIANA MEAD is holding her second open day at 77, Coleridge Avenue, Penarth, on Saturday (December 12) from 11am-4.30pm.

This complements her current exhibition at Foxy's Deli, Penarth, with more original oil and watercolour paintings, prints, cards (including Christmas cards) and notelets.

As with the main exhibition, the open day is in aid of Crossroads in the Vale, the Caring for Carers charity.

Brecon snow by Diana Mead.

Another great GEM competition in conjunction with The Felinfoel Brewery Company

Win a case of…
24 cans of Double Dragon
4.2 ABV.
Regarded as "the National Ale of Wales"; in every respect, the definitive premium beer.

Two runners up each receive 12 cans of Double Dragon.

To win the above beer, simply answer the following question:
Which ale is widely regarded as "The National Ale of Wales?"

Answer: .....
Fill in the coupon with your name, address and telephone number and send your answer to the address below.

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Address .....
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Post Code ..... Telephone: .....

Competition entries to: FELINFOEL BREWERY COMPETITION, c/o Glamorgan Gem Ltd., Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.
Closing date **Thursday, 17th December.** Normal competition rules apply. No correspondence will be entered into. Entrants must be over 18 years of age.

AM PRAISES NEW ART EXHIBITION

THE Vale AM Jane Hutt admired the exhibition 'union of time and space' at the Cannon Hill Arts Space in Barry.

She congratulated artists Glyn Pooley and Christie Reat-Bowen for their "inspirational work" on display until December 19.

"It is fantastic to see the Cannon Arts Space being developed for artists for studios and exhibitions of this kind. Well worth a visit!" she remarked.

WHAT'S ON

BARRY SURGERY
DAVID MELDING, Conservative Assembly Member for south Wales central region, will be holding an advice surgery tomorrow (Friday, December 11), at 29 High Street, Barry, between 10am-11.30am. No appointments are necessary and all are welcome to attend.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
LLANTRISANT Parish Church will again hold its Christmas tree festival on the weekend of December 12-13.

This year proceeds will be shared by Macmillan Cancer Support and the church hall restoration fund.

Father Christmas will be in residence in his grotto and refreshments will be served in the church hall throughout the weekend.

The festival will begin with a concert on Friday evening, December 11, at Llantrisant Church by Cantorian Choir, Pontyclun.

The Salvation Army and local schoolchildren will provide entertainment in the church on Saturday, December 12 and Sunday afternoon, December 13.

MRS A HOWELLS

Fontygary Leisure Park
Join us for a great night in the Bay members Club on
NEW YEARS EVE
Featuring in cabaret the excellent female vocalist…
Leigh Marie
plus Disco
Price includes buffet and free bar on specified brands

Tickets £30
We also have a limited number of tickets available for children at £15

Call Reception now to book your tickets on **01446 710386**

Santa Claus is coming to town!!!
and will be at the
Bar on the Bay
on Sunday, December 20th from 4pm

Come on down kids to meet Santa and receive a present from him.
All children are welcome up to 10 years old.
Tickets are £5 per child (limited to 60) and are available from reception until Wednesday December 16th

Out and About with The GEM

Bro Radio's new chief

BRO Radio has appointed a new managing director – 43-year-old Clive Silver, formerly from Cardiff, who runs a successful media company in London.

Mr Silver, who worked in television in Wales during the 1990s, said: "I am delighted to be able to lead a community radio station that's professional, forward thinking and committed to providing quality output.

"I am also pleased that the Vale of Glamorgan Council is supporting the community initiative.

"I am looking forward to working with a great team here at BRO who are dedicated to providing the very best in local radio."

Mr Silver joins present directors, Phil Kirkham, Jon Horne, Ray Murray and Anthea Clements.

The board expressed their thanks to outgoing managing director, Danny Chang and wished him all the best in his new venture.

ABOVE: The new managing director at BRO Radio, Clive Silver.

Jemma's long distance journey for her diploma!

BARRY College tourism lecturer and travel agent Jemma Allerton is off to Sri Lanka to bid for a prestigious travel consultant of the year prize.

Jemma, who tutors at the college when not working as a travel consultant in Cardiff, has won a place on the Kuoni Long-haul Travel Diploma.

The five-day trip consists of a series of exams and visits to Sri Lanka's top tourist attractions for the 50 travel agents who have won a place on the course.

"It will involve meeting a lot of people who work in the travel industry and visiting about 12 hotels – it's going to be very busy and quite hectic. Someone will also win the award for travel consultant of the year," Jemma added.

Jemma Allerton teaching at Barry College.

PRAISE FOR ART SHOW AT STATION

THE Vale Assembly Member Jane Hutt, joined local artists and visitors at the opening of the Vale of Glamorgan Artists (VOGA) and MIND open winter exhibition at Barry town station.

She reported: "This wonderful new display of paintings, drawings and prints by local artists runs until January 29, 2010. It was lovely to meet one of the artists, Steven Miller, who also runs classes at the Ty Newydd Centre, and to congratulate him on his work 'Winter's Day in Oils'.

Jane Hutt AM, local artist Steven Miller and Eileen Wareham – chair of MIND in the Vale.

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www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk

Anybody who wants clothes collecting, please contact the above telephone numbers

Choral Society stages a Christmas celebration

BARRY Choral Society presents a celebration of Christmas at All Saints Church, Barry on Saturday December 12, at 7.30pm.

Under the baton of deputy conductor Ian Rhys Parker and accompanied by Emma Arscott, the choir will perform carols chosen by its members.

To celebrate Welsh composer Mervyn Burtch's 80th birthday, the choir will perform his delightful carol *The Shepherd and the King*.

The choir is also celebrating the birth of Osian Fôn Thomas, who will join his brother Jonathan Bryn as mascots of the choir and prospective tenors! Osian was born on November 6, to conductor Jo Herco Thomas and tenor Rick Thomas.

Despite having given birth to Osian, Jo will be conducting three items in the concert, as well as singing the solo part in *O Holy Night* and duets with Leda Filippopoulou.

Ian Rhys Parker will 'wear another hat' during the concert when he will perform Bach's *Toccata and Fugue* and J Alain's *Litanies* on All Saints' magnificent pipe organ.

He will accompany the choir on the organ for the *Hallelujah Chorus* and *For unto us a child is born* from Handel's *Messiah* are performed and conducted by Jo Herco Thomas.

The choir will be joined by Cardiff University Brass Band under the direction of Alice Jones.

Tickets available at Harmony Furnishings, High Street, Choir members and at the door.

The Christmas No.1

BLACKSTAR AMPLIFIERS & GUITAR EFFECTS IN STOCK ALSO MARSHALL AMP DEALS

RESERVE YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT with a 10% deposit to avoid disappointment

Main dealers for *Ibanez* guitars & *Marshall* amplification

KEYBOARDS from £149

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20 Dunraven Place

BRIDGEND

01656 767801

FINANCE options written details on request

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CHRISTMAS at the **KINGS HEAD** LLANTWIT MAJOR

LUNCHTIME (Mon - Fri) Baguettes and Lite Bites

SUNDAY LUNCH (12 noon - 2pm) Choice of 3 meats - Main Course Large £5.50; Small £4; Childs £3.50

3 Course **CHRISTMAS PARTY** Menu £19.95 includes a complimentary bottle of house wine for tables of 4

BOXING DAY (Saturday from 4pm) Popular Female Vocalist **SOPHIE DOYLE** and restaurant evening menu (Booking advisable)

Fosters, Strongbow, Brains Smooth Only £2.20 per pint

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5,6 & 12,13 December

10am - 4.00pm

Enjoy the magical atmosphere with a wide range of stalls, local traders, food stands and festive musical entertainment.

Father Christmas will be making a special visit for all our younger visitors on 12 & 13.

For more details

029 2059 3328

www.dyffryngardens.com

Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee

A Christmas Service

will be held at

Coychurch Crematorium

Thursday 17th December 2009 at 7.00pm

Led by

Revd. D. Euros Miles

Ruhamah, Bridgend & Noddfa, Porthcawl

Canon Val Hamer

Rector of Coychurch

Featuring the OGMORE VALLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR

Complimentary wine and mince pies will be served at the end of the service.

Cyd-bwllgor Amlosgfa Llangrallo

Gwasanaeth y Nadolig

yn cael ei gynnal yn

Amlosgfa Llangrallo

Nos Iau 17eg o Ragfyr 2009 am 7.00pm

Dan Arweiniad

Y Parch. D. Euros Miles

Ruhamah, Pen-y-bont a Noddfa, Porthcawl

Y Canon Val Hamer

Rheithor Llangrallo

Yng nghwmni CÔR MEIBION CWM OGWR

Bydd gwin a mins peis yn cael eu gweini'n rhad ac am ddim ar ddiwedd y gwasanaeth hwn.

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BRO Radio and **The Glamorgan GEM** working together to bring you the very latest local news from your new community station, BRO Radio. Got a news story for us? Then call us on **01446 420681** or email: news@broradio.fm or contact the Glamorgan GEM on **01446 774484**

WELSH MEDIUM PUPILS GO ON A JOURNEY INTO SPACE – AND ALSO FOSTER MUSICAL TALENT!

Outer Space

YEAR-8 thoroughly enjoyed their thinking skills day on the theme of space recently. They worked together to take up the challenge of heading to Mars to set up a new colony.

High School Musical

A BRAND new production in Welsh of the hit musical will be staged for the first time ever in south Wales on December 14, 15, 16.

The cast are busy rehearsing for this exciting premier. Tickets are on sale from the school on 01446 450280.

Year-6 Transition Day

IT was *Guten Morge*n! *Bonjour*! and *Hola*! as year-6 pupils enjoyed a fun-filled day of activities, with Europe and language learning central to the first transition day of this academic year.

All pupils from our five feeder schools were presented with certificates at a highly successful day.

Music in the Vale

OUR tradition of fostering musical talent continues.

Congratulations to two year-8 pupils, Elen Wen Smith 8B (piano soloist) and Robin Tate 8R (piano ensemble) who both made the finals of their respective sections after a really tough day of auditioning on Sunday at Music in the Vale.

As finalists, they performed their programmes again in a formal evening concert held at the school, which was well attended by the public and local dignitaries from across the Vale.

The standard this year was incredibly high, with competitors from all over the UK, not just the Vale.

Both girls performed brilliantly and were presented on stage with cash prizes and certificates of achievement by AM Jane Hutt and will now have the opportunity to perform at the Wales Millennium Centre and other local venues.

Christmas Fair

AN extremely successful Christmas fair organised by the members of CRYF, our PTA, kick-started the school's Christmas celebrations this week.

A busy evening resulted in CRYF raising £600, which will be used towards buying technology resources for the school. Many thanks to all our volunteers.

News from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg

GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2009 (DROS DRO) (FFORDD GYSWLLT DOCIAU'R BARRI (A4231),Y BARRI) (CYFYNGU CYFLYMDRA I 30 M.Y.A., GWAHARDD TROI I'R DDE A THRO PEDOL)

Hysbysir trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14(1) Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddiwygiedig), a phob p_er galluogi arall yn gwneud Gorchymyn cyn pen saith niwrnod ar ôl dyddiad yr Hysbysiad hwn i'r dibenion cyffredinol a nodwyd yn yr atodlenni isod: -

ATODLEN 1

1. Ni fydd hawl i neb yrru na chaniatáu i neb arall yrru'n gyflymach na 30 milltir yr awr yn y mannau sydd wedi'u nodl yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad	Bydd y gorchymyn yn berthnasol i Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) rhwng y gyffordd â Cardiff Road (A4055) a'r gyffordd â Port Road y Barri (A4050). Bydd Gorchymyn Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2005 (Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri A4231) (Cyfyngu Cyflymdra i 50 m.y.a.) yn cael ei atal yn ystod y gwaith hwn.
Rheswm	Gwneud gwaith angenrheidiol i wella'r ffordd a'r holl waith sy'n gysylltiedig â hynny.
Cyfnod	18 mis ar y mwyaf o ddydd Llun 4 Ionawr 2010 (06.00) ymlaen, neu hyd nes y bydd yr arwyddion '30 m.y.a'. wedi'u tynnu.

ATODLEN 3

2. Ni fydd hawl i neb droi i'r dde na chaniatáu i neb arall droi i'r dde wrth yrru yn y mannau sydd wedi'u nodi yn Atodlen 4.

ATODLEN 4

Lleoliad	Y troad i'r dde o Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) i Coldbrook Road, y Barri.
Ffordd arall	Gyrrwch i gyfeiriad y de-ddwyrain at gylchfan wrth ymyl y gyffordd â Cardiff Road (A4055). Gwnewch dro pedol wrth y gyffordd honno, gyrrwch yn ôl ar hyd Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) a throwch i'r chwith i Coldbrook Road.
Lleoliad	Y troad i'r dde o Argae Lane i Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231).
Ffordd arall	Gyrrwch i gyfeiriad y de-ddwyrain at gylchfan wrth ymyl y gyffordd â Cardiff Road (A4055). Gwnewch dro pedol wrth y gyffordd honno a gyrrwch yn ôl ar hyd Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231).
Lleoliad	Y troad i'r dde o Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) i Argae Lane.
Ffordd arall	Gyrrwch i gyfeiriad y gogledd-orllewin at gylchfan wrth ymyl y gyffordd â Gilbert Lane/Trem Y Coed. Gwnewch dro pedol wrth y gyffordd honno, gyrrwch yn ôl ar hyd Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) a throwch i'r chwith i Argae Lane.
Rheswm	Gwneud gwaith angenrheidiol i wella'r ffordd a'r holl waith sy'n gysylltiedig â hynny.
Cyfnod	18 mis ar y mwyaf o ddydd Llun 4 Ionawr 2010 (06:00) ymlaen, neu hyd nes y bydd yr arwyddion 'Dim Tro i'r Dde' wedi'u tynnu.

ATODLEN 5

3. Ni fydd hawl i neb newid cyfeiriad na chaniatáu i neb arall newid cyfeiriad drwy droi ei gerbyd yn y mannau sydd wedi'u nodi yn Atodlen 6.

ATODLEN 6

Lleoliad	Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) o'r gylchfan wrth y gyffordd â Cardiff Road (A4055) i'r gyffordd â Coldbrook Road.
Rheswm	Gwneud gwaith angenrheidiol i wella'r ffordd a'r holl waith sy'n gysylltiedig â hynny.
Cyfnod	18 mis ar y mwyaf o ddydd Llun 4 Ionawr 2010 (06:00) ymlaen, neu hyd nes y daw'r gwaith i ben.

Dyddiedig 10 Rhagfyr 2009.

M. Punter,
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô, CF5 6AA.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (A4231 BARRY DOCK LINK ROAD, BARRY) (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION, PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURN AND PROHIBITION OF U TURN) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2009

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below: -

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to travel at a speed greater than 30 mph in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location	The area of the A4231 Barry Dock Link Road to be affected is between its junction with the A4055 Cardiff Road and its junction with the A4050 Port Road Barry. In addition, the Order known as The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Route A4231 Docks Link Road, Barry) (50mph Speed Restriction) Order 2005 will be suspended for the duration of the works.
Reason	To allow essential road improvements to be undertaken, together with associated works.
Duration	From 06:00Hrs on Monday 4th January 2010, for a maximum period of 18 months, or until such time as the 30mph Traffic Signs are removed, whichever is the sooner.

SCHEDULE 3

2. No person shall cause or permit a vehicle to turn right at the locations specified in Schedule 4.

SCHEDULE 4

Location	The right turn from the A4231 Barry Docks Link Road into Coldbrook Road, Barry.
Alternative Route	In a southeasterly direction to the roundabout at the junction of A4055 Cardiff Road, then "U" turning at this junction, back along the A4231 Barry Docks Link Road then turning left into Coldbrook Road.
Location	The right turn from Argae Lane onto the A4231 Barry Docks Link Road.
Alternative Route	In a southeasterly direction to the roundabout at the junction of A4055 Cardiff Road, then "U" turning at this junction, back along the A4231 Barry Docks Link Road.
Location	The right turn from A4231 Barry Docks Link Road into Argae Lane
Alternative Route	In a northwesterly direction to the roundabout at its junction with Gilbert Lane/Trem Y Coed, then "U" turning at this junction and travelling back along the A4231 Barry Docks Link Road and turning left into Argae Lane.
Reason	To allow essential road improvements to be undertaken, together with associated works.
Duration	From 06:00Hrs on Monday 4th January 2010, for a maximum period of 18 months, or until such time as the No Right Turn Traffic Signs are removed, whichever is the sooner.

SCHEDULE 5

No person shall cause or permit a vehicle to change direction by means of a U Turn at the location specified in Schedule 6.

SCHEDULE 6

Location	The A4231 Barry Dock Link Road from the roundabout at the junction with the A4055 Cardiff Road to the junction with Coldbrook Road.
Reason	To allow essential road improvements to be undertaken, together with associated works.
Duration	From 06:00Hrs on Monday 4th January 2010, for a maximum period of 18 months, or until such time as the works are completed.

Dated this 10 day of December 2009.

M. Punter,
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

PUPILS ARE KEPT BUSY AT LOCAL SCHOOL!

A 2.5 stone pumpkin before it was carved.

Pupils from St Clare's prep school enjoying their biscuits on the Macmillan Coffee Morning.

PUPILS from St Clare's school in Porthcawl have taken part in a host of extra-curricular activities throughout the autumn term.

With art projects, gardening successes, chemistry competitions and fundraising activities, the pupils have had a very busy couple of months.

Chemistry Olympiad

The Chemistry Olympiad team (Jack Holt, Rachel Pitt, Emily Whittle, Greg Parker, Owen Skelton) beat a team from Dyffryn Comprehensive and Birchgrove School, Swansea, to get through to the third round where they unfortunately lost in a closely-contested round to Olchfa School.

Taking art outside with land art spirals !

Year-10 artists created sculptures in the school grounds – based on the work of artist 'Andy Goldsworthy'.

The year-10 students worked very hard producing pieces of art which were only allowed to be made from natural objects found within the school grounds, eg leaves, bark, flowers, twigs and berries!

Money raised

St Clare's pupils have raised a great deal of money for charity this year.

The Macmillan Coffee Morning in September raised more than £700 for Macmillan Cancer Support. More recently, the school's Children in Need activities raised £627.

The school's Operation Christmas Child campaign saw 64 boxes donated by pupils, and a further £157.50 raised to go with them.

Year-13 soloist

Charlotte Skidmore in year-13 was the invited soloist at a concert on Friday, November 20 at the Bible Church in Aberkenfig.

She performed alongside the Maesteg Gleemen Male Voice Choir.

Spooky gardening

The Gardening Club grew some pumpkins in readiness for Hallowe'en during the summer months.

The fully-grown pumpkin used weighed 2.5 stone and had an enormous diameter. Year-7 pupils had great fun carving a fiendish face in it and enjoyed creating green flames that finished off the spooky effect!

Young consumer of the year quiz

Four year-12 pupils from St Clare's (Jack Davies, Sophie Crole, Catherine Moloughney and Sam Griffiths) earned second place in this competition, which consisted of a knockout quiz which tested them on a range of consumer issues.

Year-10 'Make your Mark' challenge

Pupils from year-10 were chosen to represent St Clare's School in the UK's largest one-day enterprise competition with their business idea 'Retro Sands', a company renting out beach huts on Coney Beach, Porthcawl.

They took part in the first external round at the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff, presenting their idea to more than 3,500 pupils from 75 schools and they came second in Wales – an excellent achievement !

Crime prevention quiz

The year-8 team took part in this event, organised by South Wales Police and held at Bridgend Odeon.

The team were winning until the final round, where they were beaten by just one point.

Compact award

This term, past pupil Dhanisha Patel was invited to the Welsh Assembly to be presented with a plaque for 100 per cent attendance over five years.

Fewer than 20 pupils in the whole of mid-Glamorgan achieved this.

Christmas bazaar

The Christmas bazaar on December 3 was a tremendous success, with more than £1,000 raised for the Friends of St Clare's.

Pupils from St Clare's Prep School have also just performed to a sell-out audience in the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl and now the staff and pupils are looking forward to a well earned Christmas break.

ABOVE: Dhanisha Patel receiving the award from John Griffiths AM.

RIGHT: Charlotte Skidmore.

ABOVE and BELOW: St Clare's Christmas bazaar.

St Clare's School chemistry Olympiad team.

St Clare's year-8 Crime prevention team.

Year-12 Young Consumer of the year team.

Trophy success for 'maiden winner' Neil at Farmers' day

THE wettest November many can recall failed to deter members of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society from playing in their monthly meeting, which was held on the Mackintosh course at Cottrell Park.

Rain was forecast for most of the day and brought about a few late withdrawals, resulting in only 35 competing for the quality prizes, kindly supplied by sponsor Mr Andrew Thomas of Herbert R Thomas Ltd.

Slightly damp conditions welcomed the early starters and, despite the occasional heavy shower, everyone completed their round, with some a little more complimentary than others regarding the decision to proceed with the event.

Penllyne resident Neil McLean, who scored 34 stableford points to register his maiden win in the members section, was, not surprisingly, generous with his praise for the green staff for making the course playable.

Runner-up with 32 points was secretary Tony McCarthy, while Keith Walker finished third with 30 points.

Bryan Owen, following his well-publicised success at the Cowbridge Rugby Club golf day, once again gets a mention by finishing fourth with 29 points – also winning the 'Premier Turf' sponsored lost ball sweep by guessing 24 golf balls would fail to return home.

This resulted in £60 being raised for Dr Barnardo's.

The guest section was won by eight handicapper Barrie Melhuish, whose birdie on the 575-yard par five opening hole set the scene for a near perfect round of golf. Runner-up with 31 points was Robert Calcaterra.

Llandough resident Reg Hibbert finished third with 30 points, and other guests who competed but failed to make an impression were John Morgan, Gavin Rees, James Mordecai and Gareth Perkins.

Gareth, however, had the satisfaction of returning home as winner of the 'James the Butcher' sponsored longest drive competition, while James Mordecai collected a prize for being nearest the pin on the par three holes, together with Clive Edwards, Bryan Wadham and Tony McCarthy.

Society captain Ray Howells was particularly pleased to welcome to the evening's presentation ceremony local retired farmer Bill Prichard.

Bill was a former member of the society who abandoned his golf clubs many years ago to follow his still unfulfilled dream of owning a horse good enough to win the Hennessy Gold Cup or Welsh Grand National.

Finally, special thanks to Miss Esther Magee, sales co-ordinator at Cottrell Park, for arranging our visit at short notice.

The society's next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 17 at RAF St Athan Golf Club.

TMcC

COMPETITION WINNERS GET THEIR JUST DESSERTS AT PRESENTATION DINNER

WENVOE Castle Golf Club recently held a presentation dinner to award prizes to the successful golfers in club competitions held throughout 2009.

Trophies were awarded for competitions in both the men's and ladies sections, together with awards for junior competitions and the ever popular mixed events.

Nick James won the Men's Club Championship for the fourth year in a row. He now has a very polished acceptance speech and this year paid compliments to the green staff for their excellent work in presenting the course, with its ever-improving greens.

He also paid tribute to finalist Keith Stimpson in a match of high quality and low scoring.

Lady captain Delyth Thomas presented Sue Macpherson with the trophy for the Ladies Championship. Sue produced a fine performance to take the title and thanked the defending champion, Lyn Williams, for the excellent spirit in which the final was played.

Club captain Brian Green presented the trophy for the Junior Championship to Jorden Ivory, who won a closely contested final over Rhys Collier on the last of 36 holes.

On presenting the trophy, Brian Green also paid tribute to Cyril Evans, the junior leader, who has worked tremendously hard with the junior players on a busy programme of team matches and competitions.

Club vice-president Colin Champ made light work of a busy schedule to ensure the presentation of trophies for almost 40 competitions went as smoothly as an 'Oscar' ceremony.

He made special mention of Heather and Charlie Kinsey, who were the proud winners of the Cupid Cup. Entry into the competition is restricted to married couples only – and it was strongly rumoured they married in August simply to enter and win this prestigious tournament!

The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by more than 100 members and guests, and special mention must be made of the excellent dinner provided and served by the club catering staff.

ABOVE: David Iles, winner Dragon Trophy.

ABOVE: Men's champion Nick James with club captain Brian Green.

ABOVE: Del Lewis (on left) winner of the Dai David Putter, with club professional Jason Harris.

ABOVE
Heather Kinsey (left) and Charlie Kinsey (right) winners of the Cupid Cup, with club captain Brian Green.

ABOVE
Debra Jones and Chris Jones (left and centre) the winners of the H Broadbent Trophy, with Wendy Motton.

ABOVE: Gareth Duddridge and Pat Jarvis, the winners of the Bowen Green Tankards.

RIGHT
Lyn Williams (left) and Fran Grant (right) winners of the White Cup Foursomes with lady captain Delyth Thomas .

ABOVE: Sue Macpherson –Ladies Champion .

ABOVE: Matthew Gill took the Robert Rickards Cup.

ABOVE
Sam Harris (on left) winner of the John Lewis Cup with junior leader Cyril Evans .

ABOVE
Jorden Ivory – junior champion.

ABOVE: Carole Harris (left) and Rhian Hudd (right) winners of the Laurie Jones Shield with club president Brian Coffin.

ABOVE:
Howard Hitchcock, winner of the LG Fellows Tankard .

ABOVE
Brian Brooks (left) and Peter Hennessey (on right), winners of the H Regan Foursomes with Brian Green.

ABOVE Lynda Hudd (on left) the winner of the Thompson Salver, with lady vice-captain Wendy McConkey.

YOUTH HIT GROUND RUNNING AFTER A LENGTHY LAY-OFF

YOUTH
BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 24
BONYMAEN 3

AFTER an enforced lay-off of five weeks the Athletic travelled to Bonymaen for this Ospreys league fixture, expecting the usual warm welcome.

The conditions were very wet, with plenty of rain still falling, but fortunately the surface itself was good and held up well throughout the game.

The home side chose to play with the wind and the slope and early on took full advantage with their outside half putting in some long touch finders.

At the first scrum, the Athletic pack showed their mettle with some great scrummaging, which they maintained throughout the match, owing much to the effort of their props Njabulo Dladla and Rhodri Apsee.

Despite the conditions, the Athletic showed from the outset that they had the confidence to run the ball and displayed some great running and handling skills to gain the upper hand.

Tom Habberfield, Lewis Harrhy and Matthew Morgan were prominent in these early forays, but it was fly-half Matthew Morgan who broke the deadlock when he dropped a goal.

Minutes later, the Athletic were denied when James Olds cut through in the centre followed by some good support work to cross the line only to be called back for a forward pass.

Morgan then kicked a great penalty to make the lead 6-0, only for this advantage to be cut back straight away when the kick off was knocked forward and a penalty awarded for an Athletic player playing the ball from an offside position. Morgan then increased the lead with a further penalty.

Bonymaen's tactics were to punch up through their big centre and their loose head prop, but they had little answer to the greater running abilities of the Athletic and, although they missed a golden opportunity to kick themselves within three points right on the stroke of half-time the Athletic were more than worth the 9-3 scoreline.

With the advantages in their favour in the second half, the Athletic played a more conservative game, with Matthew Morgan continually pegging Bonymaen deep back into their own territory.

Unfortunately, the Athletic lineout didn't function at all well in the poor conditions but sometimes it was better not to win the ball but spoil. Eventually the Athletic got the try they deserved when flanker Lloyd Evans was driven over wide out. Morgan converted with a great effort and also added a superb penalty goal from the half way line.

Sean Derrick, who made a number of strong runs throughout completed the scoring when the Athletic hacked through some loose lineout ball from the home side and Derrick fell on the ball in the corner. The conversion failed.

The Bonymaen forwards lifted themselves in the closing minutes in a desperate effort to get something out of the game but to no avail. This win puts the Athletic in a strong position in the league and maintained their long unbeaten record.

PR

Youth sides plough through the mud

NANTYFFYLLON Youth welcomed South Wales Police Youth for an Ospreys league game that was played in atrocious conditions. However both teams tried their best to be positive and entertaining.

It was the Police who opened the scoring when a good forward move saw the ball go wide for wing Dan Harris to slide over in the corner.

The Police soaked up a lot of pressure in the first half but their defence was solid, keeping the home side away from the try line.

The increasing rain made handling difficult, but both teams worked hard to secure possession and it was the Police who added the next score. From another forward drive, livewire scrum-half Callum Williams picked up and forced his way over in the corner.

Another score was added by the Police from a similar move with the forwards driving into the Nanty 22 and over the try line. The scorer pulled up from the pile of players was second row Jonathon Kenworthy

However, the final score was worth the wait. Nanty kicked up field to clear their line the ball was taken by full back Jack Evans who seemed to glide through the Nanty defence to slide over under the posts. Outside half Craig Davies added the two points

With conditions getting worse by the minute, it was agreed by the coaches and referee to cut the game short in the second half, but on the day credit must go to both sides for trying to play attacking rugby in terrible conditions.

Final score: Nantyffyllon 0, South Wales Police 22.

Prominent for the Police were Mathew Jones (back row) William Thomas (No 8) and centre Dan James.

BS

Blue Marlins get through – but only after extra time

PORTHCAWL Blue Marlins played Trefelin in the knock-out cup, a team they beat 8-0 earlier this season.

However, it was an entirely different side and they came with intent. The Marlins (and the coach too) thought that this game was done and dusted before the kick-off, but it took 20 minutes before the Marlins opened the scoring with a well-taken strike from Jak Robbins.

Playing with the wind advantage, Trefelin were struggling to get any shape, but the defensive line of Porthcawl also seemed to be very sluggish.

Trefelin battled on, putting some long balls through to test keeper Ben Cannon and it wasn't long before they found a way through to equalise.

From here on, in the game spun around in Trefelin's favour. There was no sense of urgency in the Marlins' play.

Ryan Haney had one of his better games on the wing and put some lovely crosses into the box, and a few attempts at goal were comfortable dealt with by Trefelin's keeper.

After a some stern words from the coach at half time. The Marlins still never really showed any urgency, while Trefelin tackled harder, with more determination, and played some enterprising football.

It was only a matter of time before the constant pressure from Trefelin paid-off and, 40 minutes into the game, Trefelin were 2-1 up. For the first time this season, the Marlins found themselves behind and they didn't like it!

Trefelin were now dominating the midfield and Porthcawl had do dig in hard to stop any further advance.

To the Marlin's credit; not only did they dig in, but they also dug themselves out. Four excellent attempts on goal were kept out by Trefelin's keeper Cameron.

Two long range shots from Rhydian Nelson outside of the box were swept aside easily and several other shots went sailing wide of the target.

With 10 minutes to go Porthcawl finally put themselves back in the game with a slick finish from Jak Robbins to give him his second goal of the afternoon, and Porthcawl's equaliser.

Both teams were now in full flight and neither side was giving an inch! A few more tentative shots at goal were easily dealt with by Trefelin and time finally ran out for both teams and extra time would settle the encounter.

The first 15 minutes was played with the same tempo as the last 20, and it seemed that neither team could break the deadlock.

The second half of extra time again was a tale of tit-for-tat.

Once again, as in so many of this season's games, it was stamina rather than dominant football that kept the Marlins going and, for the last 10 minutes, Trefelin were pinned back.

With just one minute to go, a frantic goal-mouth scramble saw Jak Robbins nudge another ball into the back of the net to complete his hat-trick.

Trefelin can hold their heads up high, their standard of football was outstanding and their goalkeeper, in my opinion, was the best I have seen this season, and will undoubtedly be swept up by one of the City scouts!

This was not the Marlins best game, and they know they have to step-up another level in the finals if they want to lift the trophy!

JOHN NELSON

ABOVE: The Porthcawl Blue Marlins team are now looking forward to the knockout cup final.

Tondu under-13s cut loose against Sports

TONDU under-13s played well to register this comprehensive win against Bridgend Sports.

Ashley Baker ghosted over under the posts for the first try, converted by Rhydian Jenkins. Ben Jones was next to score, kicking the ball over the line to touchdown.

The next try came after good inter-passing which resulted in Carwyn Dent scoring. The try was converted by Rhydian Jenkins.

Then Ben Jones was released down the wing for another touchdown.

The next try came was scored by Lloyd Webb, who broke clear from the maul to touchdown under the posts, converted by Rhydian Jenkins. Sam Matthews was next, powering his way over from 15 metres. The try was converted by Rhydian Jenkins.

Lewis Austin scored next running in powerfully from 50 metres to touchdown under the posts, try converted by Rhydian Jenkins.

Carwyn Dent scored next, and then Josh Thomas scored, touching down near the corner. Lloyd Webb linked with Ben Jones, who sprinted down the wing to score.

Carwyn Dent again showed his running skills to evade tacklers to run in from long range.

Rhydian Jenkins scored the last try powering his way over from close range.

Final score: Bridgend Sports 0, Tondu 70.

EJ

GEM QUIZ LEAGUE ROUNDUP

ON Monday, November 30, there was a mixture of quite high and fairly low scores.

An exception was the match where Oldcastle 'A' entertained Royal Oak Nomads.

Equal after the written round, the individual section saw Nomads take a two-point lead.

After that it never went above three and the result was in doubt at the final pair of questions.

As both failed, it meant Nomads maintained their 100 per cent position, winning 50-48.

The other two in the top four had wins, Maesteg Catholic Club beat Prince of Wales 'A' 40-33, and Mackworth Arms had a 47-30 win at Royal Oak Royals, who were strangely out of touch despite the return of Graham Walker.

Tondu Railway Club were in good form against Llangeinor AFC, winning by 42-29, and in the remaining game Llynfi Arms returned to something like their best form away to Laleston Inn 'A'. Although close early on, Llynfi ran out winners by 45-36.

In Division Two Prince of Wales 'B' lost their hundred per cent record but remain unbeaten as their match with the Gamekeepers ended in a 41-all draw.

There was another close one at Llangewydd Arms, who just edged out Pheasant Poachers by 42-41.

Cabo Roche are close behind having won 42-37 at Heol-y-Cyw RFC.

Oldcastle 'B' are creeping away from the bottom and their 46-34 victory at Oddfellows Arms raised their morale no end.

Finally, Laleston Inn 'B' consigned Pyle RFC to bottom spot by winning 41-36.

HERE are this week's 'food-for-thought':

1) Frances Nisbet was the wife of which famous historical figur?

2) Which Italian composer has jokingly been referred to as 'Joe Green'?

3) With which player did John McEnroe win 57 men's doubles titles?

4) Which sauce is said to have been named after an 18th century naval battle?

A RUDGE
Hon Sec, BGQL

QUIZ ANSWERS:
1. Lord Nelson.
2. Giuseppe Verdi.
3. Peter Fleming.
4. Mayonnaise.

BRIDGEND LEISURE LEAGUES: SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL ROUND UP

B ATTACK made it seven wins out of seven in the Bridgend six-a-side football league as Gareth Thomas led them to a 5-1 hammering of Croissants.

Dunraven will be on a high, and sit second as Richard Lowe led them to a victory by the odd goal in three against Racing Inter, while Harry Ormsby did likewise for AC Brackla against AFC Just One More.

Hangover Heroes were at their best elsewhere and hung onto the coat-tails of the leading sides, fattening up their wins column, beating Team Girth 3-2, as Kevin Rodgers proved the difference.

Anyone who wants to join the Six-a-side leagues in Bridgend can ring 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net

Premier Division

Team Name	Played	Goal Diff	Points
B Attack	7	17	14
Dunraven	7	6	12
Hangover Heroes	7	7	9
Day Sleepers	7	9	7
Croissants	7	-3	7
AC Brackla	7	4	6
Team Girth	7	-3	6
Racing Inter	7	-3	5
AFC Just One ...	7	-8	4
Persil Boys FC	7	-26	0

AC Brackla.

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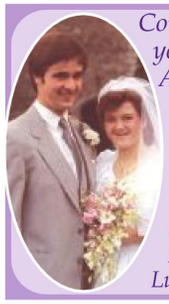

Congratulations on your Silver Wedding Anniversary 15.12.09
NIGEL & MARIANNE ENGLAND
Enjoy your special day Mum and Dad
Lots of love Louise, Luke and Mathew xxx

Family Notices

SAWYER
Barbara Mary
Peacefully at home on Wednesday 2nd December 2009
Loving sister of Frances Fisher, devoted mother to Julie-Anne and Christopher, mother-in-law to Joanne and Mark, much loved Nana of Matthew, Robert, Sophie and Adam.
Resting in the chapel of W A Brown & Son, Llantwit Major.
The funeral service will be held at St Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major at 10:15am on Monday 14th December 2009, followed by a cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 11:30am.
Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, may be sent to Macmillan Cancer Support c/o C. Sawyer, 27 Heol Ger-y-Felin, Llantwit Major CF61 2XA.

TRUDGIAN
Patricia Ann
Peacefully at home on December 2, after a tremendous fight. Pat of Boverton, beloved wife of John, dearly-loved mum of Jeremy & Denise, Jonathan & Gail, and Jenny & Mark. Treasured Nanny to all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
The family would like to thank doctors, nurses and receptionists at Eryl Surgery. The nurses from Marie Curie, all the staff at Y Bwythyn Newydd and Velindre Hospital who have helped us through this difficult time. We would also like to thank all our friends and neighbours for their kind messages and support through this difficult time. God bless you all.
Mum's love will live on forever.

JOHN MERVYN WILLIAMS
(1935 - 2009)
Hoffai Rhiannon a'r teulu ddiolch i bawb am bob mynegiant o gydymdeimlad a chefnogaeth yn ystod eu profedigaeth ddiweddar.
Rhiannon and family would like to thank everyone for the sympathy and support shown to them during their recent bereavement.

Terence Norman Arnold (Terry)
Marian and family would like to sincerely thank all their friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and donations in the sad loss of a much-loved husband and brother. Many thanks to Canon D. Belcher and everyone involved in what was a beautiful service. Special thanks to Cowbridge District Nurses, Llandough Haematology Clinic and Holme Towers for their extreme kindness to Terry. Finally, a big thank you to Thomas Brothers for the professional way in which they carried out their duties.

Eunice Grace JONES
Peacefully, after many serious illnesses courageously endured, at Bassetlaw Hospital, Nottinghamshire.
Eunice Grace Jones, formerly of Llandow, Vale of Glamorgan, aged 84 years of age.
Funeral to be held at Holy Trinity, Llandow, at 11.00am on Friday 11th December.
Flowers or donations welcome: Donations to Holy Trinity, Llandow. Flowers to Green Gate, St Brides Major. Enquiries to Thomas Bros, 01446 772669.
Reunited with her beloved husband, Raymond.

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High Street Traders prize draw winner

RIGHT: Lucky winner Mrs Babs Goldsby of Barry is seen receiving £100 of shopping vouchers from Anthony Hopkins (Chairman of High Street Traders) and Tony Gratton, who sold the winning ticket.

HIGH STREET Traders have announced the fourth lucky winner in their monthly prize draw.

The High Street Traders Association holds a raffle every month. So if you want to be in with a chance to win, pop into any shop displaying the 'Raffle' sign, buy a ticket and who knows, you could be the next lucky winner. As it's December, there will be two winning tickets drawn, each with £100 shopping vouchers.

The winning ticket will be drawn live on Bro Radio on the 12th of every month, just after the midday news, when you can find out if you have won.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:
HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas
Datblygiad mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01239/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Erection of first floor extension to rear elevation
Location:/Lleoliad: Hendre Cottage, Michaelston Le Pit
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Michaelston-le-Pit

Listed Building Consent
Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01196/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolish existing single storey outbuilding to rear, construct new single storey extension to rear wing adjacent to western boundary
Location:/Lleoliad: The Three Tuns, St. Nicholas
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Development that might affect the setting of a Listed Building
Datblygiad a allai effeithio ar amgylchedd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01202/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Astronomical observatory
Location:/Lleoliad: Dyffryn Gardens, Dyffryn
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Dyffryn House, Grade II*

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar- vog.planning-register.co.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995
GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF
(TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) which might affect a Public Right of Way
Ceisiadau a allai effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01105/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conversion of disused barn to bedroom and single storey extension to existing dwelling. Conversion of disused pen to farm office.
Location:/Lleoliad: The Coach House, Bolgoed Farm, Hensol Road, Hensol

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk
Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 10 December, 2009
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 10 Rhagfyr, 2009
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri
CF63 4RT

LOCAL RUNNERS' HOPES DASHED IN INTER-SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE Welsh Schools' Inter-Schools cross-country championships have been a happy hunting ground for the Vale schools in recent years, but the run of success came to an end at the 33rd staging, held at Penlan in Brecon.

In the week leading up to the event, the combination of wet weather and high winds made it touch and go whether the fixture would be staged. On the Thursday night before the event, meeting organiser Derek Osborne made the decision that the fixture would be held, but that did not prevent rain, rain and more rain falling on the day, making the course very heavy in places.

For the last nine years, Cowbridge School has won at least one of the six team titles at this fixture but this year, much to the disappointment of Miss Laura Hale and Mr Glan Williams, members of the school's hard-working PE department, that unique record came to an end.

At the South Wales Regional Schools championships, held before half term, Cowbridge pupils had claimed the individual and team titles in the under-14 girls race section while the Llantwit squad were winners at under-16 girls. Both schools had high hopes of further success at Brecon, but it was not to be.

In the opening race, Annabel Curle, the South Wales regional schools' champion, struggled to make an impact in the under-14 race for girls in years-7 and 8, and had to settle for 16th, well down on Stanwell's Kate Coker, who was top Vale performer in seventh. With Jordan Carpenter the normal Cowbridge second runner home not competing, the Vale school had to settle for fourth behind a super showing from Pembrokeshire's Sir Thomas Picton.

Dafydd George was the highest placed runner in the under-14 boys' race. The Bro Morgannwg year-8 finished sixth, while Tom Owen was the top placed Cowbridge athlete, taking 23rd place and leading the team home to sixth.

For the last two years, Llantwit have won the under-14 girls' team title at this event, and hopes were high for a win at under-16 this time, but to win you have to have four scoring runners. Megan Osborne (8th), Anthea Young (12th) and Lucy Tarrant (23rd) ran well. Had there been a fourth scorer, she could have finished last, and Llantwit would still have beaten the 106 point total of the winners, Caereinion High from Powys.

There were very encouraging individual performances from three year-10 Vale boys in the under-16 race. Last year, no-one would have dreamed that Matthew Edwards and Callam Barrie of Barry Comprehensive would make an impact at the front end of this field but it is a mark of their improvement that Matthew just missed an individual medal, finishing fourth, with Callam, as he had indicated before the race, taking 10th spot.

Rory Heslop (Bro Morgannwg), who was ill before half term, and missed the South Wales event, eased back into competition with a 13th placing.

Only one Vale athlete competed in the senior girls' race, an event dominated by Ffion Price of Llandrindod High. St Cyres year-11 Bethan Daw, so impressive in finishing third in the South Wales regional schools, found the conditions very tough and had to settle for 16th.

Report by PETER MORRIS

Llantwit's Darren Jones was the leading Vale boy in the final race of the day, the senior boys' event for pupils in years-11 and above. The year-12 can feel pleased with his ninth place.

Many of the top Vale athletes from this fixture have an opportunity to end the first half of the cross-country season on a less disappointing note when they compete for the South Wales regional teams at the twelfth Welsh Inter Regional championships, which will be held at Builth Wells next Sunday, December 13.

VALE RESULTS

Senior boys – Years 11 – 14 - 5300m
9 Darren Jones (Lwt) 19:33; 15 Elliott Mears (Cow) 20:05; 17 Daniel Lewis (St Cyres) 20:15; 20 Alex Simon (Lwt) 20:25; 21 Rhys George (Bro M) 20:50; 27 Joseff Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 21:27; 36 Jonathon Esquirol (Cow) 22:52; 39 Dillon Morgan (Cow) 23:52.

Under-16 Boys - Years 9 & 10 - 4120m
4 Matthew Edwards (Barry) 14:05; 10 Callam Barrie (Barry) 14:44; 13 Rory Heslop (Bro M) 14:51; 25 Elliot Richards (Stan) 15:39; 58 Tom Kamal (Cow) 17:34; 62 Stuart Fleming (Cow) 17:40; 68 Dan Owen (Cow) 18:37; 73 Luke Aspinall (Cow) 20:05.
Teams: 9 Cowbridge 261

Under-14 Boys – Years 7 & 8 - 2800m
6 Dafydd George (Bro M) 10:32; 23 Tom Owen (Cow) 11:12; 28 Ellis Rosser (Cow) 11:19; 42 Tom Lucas (Cow) 11:44; 68 Huw Bennett (Cow) 12:12; 79 Hywel Williams (Cow) 12:22; 80 Scott Thomas (Cow) 12:23
Teams: 6 Cowbridge 161

Senior girls – Years 11 to 14 - 4120m
12 Bethan Daw (St Cyres) 17:01

Under-16 girls – Years 9 &10 - 3640m
6 Megan Osborne (Lwt) 14:26; 12 Anthea Young (Lwt) 14:53; 16 Fiona Bray (Cow) 15:18; 21 Miriam Bennett (Cow) 15:34; 23 Lucy Tarrant (Lwt) 15:51; 34 Rebecca John (Cow) 16:38; 41 Hannah Jones (Bryn H) 18:12; 43 Jodie Price (Bryn H) 18:45; 44 Katie Mellin (Bryn H) 18:56; 45 Ashleigh Kincaid Cwm Rhymni 19:15; 47 Danielle Close (Bryn H) 20:27; 48 Katie Mills (Bryn H) 20:28.
Teams: 4 Bryn Hafren 175

Under-14 girls – Years 7 & 8 - 2800m
7 Kate Coker (Stan) 11:39; 16 Annabel Curle (Cow) 12:01; 19 Erin Hayes (Lwt) 12:11; 29 Chloe Hughes (Lwt) 12:36; 30 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H) 12:38; 33 Elinor Bishop (Cow) 12:41; 34 Tillie Carter (Bryn H) 12:44; 36 Kayla Huggins (Bryn H) 12:51; 41 Chloe Lewis (Stan) 13:06; 43 Kierney O'Dare (Lwt) 13:08; 45 Rebecca Thomas (Cow) 13:10; 48 Alice Tudor (Cow) 13:22; 49 Anna Mirza-Davies (Stan) 13:30; 55 Charlotte Webber (Bryn H) 13:52; 58 Maisie Squire (Stan) 14:03; 59 Lydia Parsons (Lwt) 14:04; 60 Elinor Morgan (Cow) 14:07; 62 Laurie Thomas (Cow) 14:13; 64 Elinor Hicks (Lwt) 14:15; 73 Alix Hopkins (Bryn H) 14:44; 74 Sophie Morse (Bryn H) 14:49; 75 Jess Cushen (Bryn H) 14:53; 77 Laura Young (Lwt) 15:04.
Teams: 4 Cowbridge 142; 5 Llantwit 150; 6 Bryn Hafren 155; 7 Stanwell 155

Photographs by IAN DIXON

Matthew Edwards (Barry Comprehensive) just missed an individual medal in the under-16 race.

Year-8 Dafydd George (Bro Morgannwg), sixth in the under-14 race.

Annabel Curle led the Cowbridge team to fourth place in the under-14 race.

Megan Osborne (194), Lucy Tarrant (195) and Anthea Young (196) pack well in the under-16 race, but with no fourth runner, they did not complete a scoring team.

Pencoed on top in under-12 derby game

PENCOED were hosts to Bryntirion this week in a very evenly matched contest.

Bryntirion started the better and had chances which were cleared by the Pencoed defence. Pencoed did not look on form, with some sloppy passes giving Bryntirion much of the possession.

Pencoed did manage to break away with a cross coming in for Connor Goldsworthy to slot in the back of the net, but they still looked slow off the mark and Bryntirion picked up on this with some lovely passing.

Pencoed started to settle down half-way into the first half and started to pass the ball about. Connor Goldsworthy picked up the ball in Bryntirion's half and took on two defenders to strike and made it Pencoed 2, Bryntirion 0, at half time.

The second half started well for Pencoed, but Bryntirion's 'keeper kept them in the game with a fantastic save. Pencoed kept battling but couldn't get that third goal,

Bryntirion kept working hard and never gave up. They came close on a few occasions and should be really proud of their performance. Pencoed did manage to score just five minutes before full time with a goal from Lewis Butler.

Final score: Pencoed 3, Bryntirion 0.

CG

Christingle service in Cowbridge

ADVENT continues to be a busy, rich and exciting time in all the Cowbridge churches.

This weekend starts with the Big Sing tomorrow (December 11) at Holy Cross church at 7.30pm.

The United Free Church has a Celtic worship advent service at 6pm this Sunday. Also this Sunday, at 4pm in Holy Cross church, the Christingle service will be held.

This year we have special visitors, including Mr C Tingle and the Watt family, whom many will remember from holiday clubs.

SUE FREELAND

TELL US ALL ABOUT IT!

● *WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please send them to the Editorial Department, The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email: ggem@internet-today.co.uk*

Why trust is taking dogs off Christmas gift list

THIRTY ONE years on from the birth of its famous slogan 'A dog is for life, not just for Christmas®' Dogs Trust, which has a rehoming centre in Bridgend, is bracing itself for another busy Christmas.

In 1978 20 per cent of dogs were given as gifts, whereas in 2008 this figure was just 1.8 per cent. However this still represents 131,400 dogs per year. Many pups are abandoned soon after being given as presents, while older dogs can be dumped to make way for new puppies.

Last year an unwanted puppy was abandoned on Christmas Day. "Theo the Labrador puppy had been bought as a gift for a young family who soon realised they hadn't the time to dedicate to him and he was abandoned at our West Calder Rehoming Centre'', a Trust spokesperson said.

To help prevent people thoughtlessly buying dogs as Christmas presents, Dogs Trust Bridgend will not rehome dogs from December 20 to January 2. People can visit and reserve a dog, but will not be able to take it home until the New Year.

Beverley Price, Dogs Trust Bridgend Manager stated: "As well as taking in abandoned dogs over the Christmas period, staff will continue their usual busy job of looking after the 70 dogs (approximately) in their care. While other people are preparing the turkey, staff at the centre will be cleaning kennels and walking dogs.

"At lunchtime they give dogs Santa sacks filled with toys and treats sent in from dog lovers all over the country. Some staff will also hand feed pups throughout the night over the holiday period.

"The A dog is for life, not just for Christmas® slogan is just as relevant today as it was when it was created 31 years ago. Some of the reasons we hear for dogs being abandoned are saddening.

Having a dog is a long-term commitment and the Christmas period gives us the opportunity to remind people that dogs are not fashion accessories or disposable items that can be upgraded or discarded after just a few months."

Dogs Trust Bridgend is based at Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai CF31 4NG or contact: 01656 725219.

Ellie (aged 7) and family win VIP trip to police HQ

SEVEN-year-old Ellie Broad and her family had a day out with a difference when she won a competition at this summer's Sully fete.

Her prize was a trip to South Wales Police headquarters in Bridgend for a special VIP visit.

Ellie and her mother, Zara, and five-year-old sister Sophie were picked up from their home in Penarth by PC Andy Evans and driven by police car to headquarters.

At police headquarters, the girls were introduced to all the police horses and told about their different colouring, ages, sizes and were able to feed them carrots. They also watched while the horses were dressed into their police uniforms.

They then visited the dog section and were introduced to two of the force's 'sniffer' dogs and were given a description of what they do as part of their job.

A visit to the traffic department was next on the agenda for Ellie and her family, where the two girls received a bag of goodies, including a teddy bear, before seeing the motorbike and police car and how the lights and sirens worked and the video camera in the traffic car.

After lunch, there was a visit to the police helicopter where Inspector Gary Smart showed them videos of the helicopter helping to chase stolen cars in action.

Mum Zara said: "We are all so grateful to everyone involved in putting this day together. It was such a fantastic experience for all of us, nothing was too much trouble and we had an amazing time from start to finish. It really was a day to remember."

ABOVE:
Ellie tries out the helicopter.

WHO IS NEXT?

Penarth police are running a second competition for a youngster to win the prize.

For full details, contact the Penarth Sector of Ourbobby.com for further details.

POLICE APPEAL AFTER BARRY BURGLAR MAKES HIS ESCAPE

POLICE in Barry are investigating an attempted burglary at a house on Somerset Road in the Buttrills area.

The incident took place around midday on Monday, December 7.

A Vale Police spokesman said: "The burglar was disturbed by the householder while he was attempting to break in to the rear of the house, and made his escape across the garden, along Southey Street and out onto Gladstone Road."

The suspect is described as a white man in his 20s with short brown hair. He was wearing black track suit trousers and a navy blue top, with white chevrons running down the sleeves and with a short collar.

Detective Sergeant Julian Kerslake of Barry CID said: "We would like to hear from anyone who may have information with regard to this incident.

"If you saw anyone behaving suspiciously in the area or if you have information about this crime then please contact the police."

DS Julian Kerslake can be contacted at Barry CID, on 01446 731606, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Santa is star attraction at Dickensian evening

ON December 4, Dinas Powys Rotary Club held its annual village Dickensian fayre and, despite the inclement weather during the day, hundreds of villagers, of all ages, turned out to ensure another very successful and fun-filled event.

Spokesman Colin Ll Jones reported: "As always, Santa's grotto was one of the star attractions for the family.

"The coconut-shy stall was very busy all night and hundreds of burgers and hot dogs were sold.

"The market stall holders were very pleased with their sales and a fine festive spirit was generated during the evening.

"The president and members of Dinas Powys Rotary Club would like to thank everyone who turned out on the evening to assist, the Horseshoes Pub for their continued support and a special thank you to the people of Dinas Powys who turned out, even though the weather forecast was not favourable."

Poppy Appeal raised £4,223

A TOTAL of £4,223.74 has been banked from the sale of Poppies from 73 outlets in Cowbridge and district, together with the collections on the High Street.

Through The GEM, and on behalf of the Royal British Legion, I should like to thank all those who have contributed to this splendid result.

Unfortunately, we did not match last year's total of £4,748; therefore, should anyone wish to help to reduce the shortfall (perhaps by a collection at a Christmas party) the appeal fund 2009 is still open.

I would be pleased to receive donations, c/o The Town Clerk, Cowbridge Town Hall. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Poppy Appeal'.

Your readers will appreciate that calls on the Legion's fund have increased significantly as a consequence of the war in Afghanistan, and the Poppy Appeal provides a way in which we can demonstrate our support for our Servicemen and women.

Len Taylor,
Cowbridge

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175/70TR14 Bridgestone B250	£57.79	£110	£200	175/70TR14 Avon CR322	£45.27	£85	£160	175/70TR14 Hero	£29.05	£55	£105
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185/65HR15 Bridgestone ER300	£73.84	£140	£265	185/65HR15 Avon ZV3	£54.89	£105	£199	185/65HR15 Federal	£35.88	£67	£130
195/65HR15 Bridgestone B250	£66.20	£125	£235	195/65HR15 Avon ZV3	£52.02	£99	£190	195/65HR15 Hero	£34.90	£65	£125

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195/65VR15 Bridgestone ER300	£64.34	£120	£230	195/65VR15 Avon ZV5	£51.14	£97	£185	195/65VR15 Federal	£39.06	£75	£145
205/55VR16 Bridgestone ER300	£66.73	£125	£235	205/55VR16 Avon ZV5	£62.66	£120	£230	205/55VR16 Federal	£46.86	£90	£175

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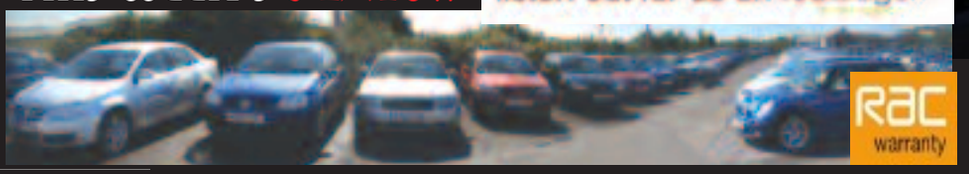

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58	1.4 HDi VTR 3dr Diesel Hatch	Black	9,900 miles	£8,995
08	1.4i VTR 3dr Hatch	Silver	15,846 miles	£7,995
57	1.1i Cool 3dr Hatch Sp Eds	Black	19,555 miles	£6,495
07	1.1i Airplay + 3 dr Hatch Sp Eds	Yellow	12,133 miles	£6,495
07	1.1i Design 3-dr Hatch	Red	21,343 miles	£5,995
56	1.4i SX 5-dr Hatch	Grey	19,000 miles	£6,495

CITROEN C3

09	Pluriel 1.4i Cote d'Azur 2dr SE	Black	50 miles	£10,995
08	1.4i Cachet 5dr Hatch Special Ed	Silver	11,905 miles	£7,995
08	1.4i Rhythm 5dr Hatch	Grey	9,291 miles	£7,995
08	1.4i Cool 5dr Hatch SE	Grey	10,214 miles	£7,495
57	1.4i Cool 5dr Hatch SE	Silver	7,200 miles	£7,495
07	1.4i Desire 5dr Hatch SE	Silver	14,200 miles	£6,995
56	1.4i SX 5dr Hatch	Grey	19,000 miles	£6,495
55	1.6i 16v Exclusive 5-dr Sensodrive	Blue	24,000 miles	£6,495

CITROEN C4

08	1.6HDi 16v VTR PLus 3dr Dsl	Silver	10,364 miles	£8,995
56	1.6iHDi 16v SX 5dr Dsl Hatch	Silver	19,000 miles	£7,995
56	1.6 16v Cool 3-dr Coupe Sp Eds	Silver	29,002 miles	£6,995
55	1.6i 16v SX 5-dr Auto Hatch	Silver	25,700 miles	£6,495
05	1.4i16v VT 3-dr Coupe	Black	31,079	£4,995

CITROEN C4 PICASSO

57	2.0i 16v SX 5dr EGS Estate	Silver	7,723 miles	£10,995

CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO

08	1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr D Est	Blue	8,749 miles	£14,995
58	1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr D Est	Grey	19,441 miles	£14,995
57	1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr D Est	Mauve	12,659 miles	£13,995

CITROEN C5

09	1.6HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr Dsl	Red	4,518 miles	£14,995

CITROEN C8

03	2.0 16v SX 5-dr Auto Estate	Silver	40,000 miles	£6,795

CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE

57	1.6 HDi 16v XTR 5dr Estate Sp Eds	Silver	18,421 miles	£7,995
07	1.6i 16v Forte 5dr Estate	Silver	9,797 miles	£6,595
04	2.0 HDi 90 Desire 5dr Dsi Estate	Red	54,000 miles	£4,995

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07	1.6 HDi 92 VTX 5dr Diesel Estate	Grey	23,706 miles	£8,695
07	1.6i 16v Desire 5dr Estate	Silver	44,080 miles	£6,995
56	1.6 HDi 92 Exclusive 5-dr Diesel Est	Grey	22,000 miles	£8,495
56	1.6 HDi Exclusive 5dr Diesel Estate	Grey	58,000 miles	£6,995
06	2.0 16v VTX 5dr Auto Estate	Blue	30,000 miles	£8,595

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09	2.2 HDi H1 Van 120ps 33 L1 Dsl	White	3150 miles	£12,645

56 Xsara Picasso 1.6HDi 92 Exclusive 5-dr Diesel Estate. Grey, 22,000 miles £8495

58 C4 Grand Picasso 1.6HDi 16v VTR Plus 5-dr Est. Grey, 19,441 miles £14995

57 CITROEN C5 1.6HDi 16v VTR+ 5-dr Tourer. Red, 4,518 miles £14,995

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58 Astra 1600 Elite 5dr in Silver Lightning, 24,000 miles £10695

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54 Corsa 1.2 Life 5dr in Spearmint Silver 48,000 miles £4495
08 Corsa 1200 Life 3dr A/C in Star Silver, 19,000 miles £7495
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08 Corsa Club 1.2 5dr, in Silver Lightning, 15,900 miles £7695
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58 Meriva 1.6 Design in Silver, 4,000 miles £9995
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58 Meriva 1.6 Design 16000 miles in blue £9999

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04 **54 MERCEDES Benz CL500 5 litre 2-dr Auto coupe.** In tanzanite blue with java leather interior with BOSE sound system, AMG body styling, electric sunroof, only 48,245 miles **£19,995**

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SPORTS

07 **07 VW Beetle 1.6 Luna 2-dr Cabriolet.** In harvest moon beige with dark interior, heated seats, CD, front fogs, colour coded bumpers, only 11,335 miles **£12,995**

07 **07 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDi Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In Onyx black with Madrid black/grey interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, front fogs, colour coded bumpers, only 29,405 miles **£8,495**

06 **06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDi 2.0 (140) 5-dr** in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles **£9,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.8TDCi Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In panther black with dark flint interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 55,315 miles **£7,495**

06 **06 BMW X3 2.0d 5-dr Sport Station Wagon** in black sapphire with ambient leather interior, automatic air con, front and rear parking sensors, cruise control, professional sat nav, only 27,515 miles **£17,995**

06 **55 AUDI A3 2.0T FSi 5-dr Sport Back** in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior. BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, climate conrol, cd, only 39,280 miles **£11,995**

05 **55 HONDA CRV Sport 2.2 CDTi 5-dr Station Wagon** in Cosmi grey with sports black interior, alloy wheels, air con, sunroof, cool box, cd, cruise control, steering wheel mounted controls, only 27,442 miles **£10,995**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 Cooper S (Chilli Pack).** Black, black leather interior, a/c, alloys, cd, rear parking sensors, only 49,390 miles **£11,995**

05 **55 BMW X3 2.0D Sport 5-dr Station Wagon.** In blue water silver with black leather interior, sat nav, multi CD, heated seats, front and rear parking sensors, only 61,930 miles **£14,995**

05 **54 MG ZT-T 1.8T 160 5-dr Estate.** In Royal blue, Monaco ash half leather interior, alloy wheels, climate control, multi-function steering wheel, only 32,320 miles **£5,995**

04 **54 AUDI TT Coupe 1.8 T Quattro (225).** In ebony black met, with full black leather, alicantara upholstery, heated seats, trip computer, climate, traction control, 6 cd autochanger, only 68,710 miles **£11,995**

04 **54 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium Coupe.** In crystal silver with Montreal black leather interior, climate control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, deadlocks, alarm, CD, only 27,953 miles **£7,995**

04 **54 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 HDi 110bhp GTi 3-dr Hatchback.** In Sahara yellow with half anthracite leather/suede interior, digital air con, multi CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 22,755 miles **£6,995**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr hatchback.** In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles **£6,995**

02 **02 HONDA Accord 2.3i VTEC Type V (150)** in Atlantic blue with tan leather interior, electric drivers seat, sunroof, alloy wheels, climate control, rear parking sensors, only 48,000 miles **£4,495**

01 **Y AUDI TT Roadster 1.8T Quattro (225)** in met silver with full granite leather, 18" alloy wheels, heated seats, trip computer, cruise control + climate control, cd multi-changer with BOSE stereo upgrade, only 63,010 miles..**£8,495**

00 **X TVR Tuscan 4.01 V8 360bhp.** In crystal topaz pearl blue with portland grey leather interior, cd, 18" spyder alloy wheels, e/windows, cat 1 alarm, e/mirrors, a/c, substantial workshop portfolio, supreme example, only 36,000 miles **£12,995**

00 **X BMW 325Ci 2.5i 2-Door Convertible.** In Brilliant silver with Montana grey leather interior, automatic air con, rear parking sensors, electric seats, alarm, alloy wheels, hard top in body coloured bumpers, only 87,720 miles **£8,995**

W **00 AUDI Cabriolet 1.8 Final Edition.** In silver with chilli red interior, alloy wheels, CD, iPod connection, front fogs, colour coded bumpers, only 62,510 miles **£4,995**

99 **T BMW Z3 1.9 2-dr Convertible.** In Green with green leather interior, colour coded bumpers, CD, alloy wheels, electric hood, only 51,300 miles **£5,995**

FAMILY

07 **57 FORD Focus 1.8 TDCi Style 5-dr Hatchback.** In tonic blue with heated front screen, climate control, CD, cruise control, only 16,700 miles **£9,295**

06 **56 TOYOTA Corolla T2 Colour Collection, 1.4 5-dr hatchback.** In eclipse black with silver fleck interior, a/c, alloys, colour coded side skirts, audio controls on steering wheel, one owner, only 32,415 miles **£7,995**

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05 **55 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6i 16v 110hp Exclusive 5-dr MPV.** Oriental blue, blue interior, cruise, auto a/c, front fogs, steering wheel mounted audio controls, only 32,355 miles **£6,495**

05 **54 CITROEN Xsara Picasso Exclusive 1.6HDi.** In icelandic green metallic with doris blue interior, cruise control, climate control, alloy wheels, trip computer, cd, 1 owner, only 29,420 miles **£7,495**

04 **54 PEUGEOT 206 SW 2.0 HDi 90 XSi 5-dr Estate.** China blue, black/grey merlin interior, a/c, body coloured bumpers, cd, alloys, only 45,796 miles **£5,995**

04 **54 RENAULT Scenic 1.4 16v Authentique** in met grey with anthracite interior, a/c, auto wipers, auto lights, only 42,800 miles **£4,695**

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04 **04 FORD Ka 1.3 Style 3-dr Hatchback.** In moondust silver with digit anthracite interior, CD, power steering, colour coded bumpers, only 48,656 miles **£3,495**

04 **04 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v SXi 5-dr Hatchback** in Aruba blue with sensor cloth interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cd, factory alarm, only 60,841 miles **£3,995**

06 **56 PEUGEOT 107 1.0 12v Urban 3-dr Hatchback.** In raven black with black matrix interior, electric windows, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 16,465 miles, £35 a year tax **£5,495**

04 **04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 COUPE CONVERTIBLE 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cdm alloy wheels, alarm, only 43,895 miles **£6,495**

04 **04 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCi 120 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In metallic silver, with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, CD, colour coded bumpers, air con, only 42,955 miles **£5,995**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCi 68 Extreme hatchback.** In black with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, cd, electric windows, remote central locking, alarm, immobiliser, only £35 per year road tax, 27,650 miles **£7,295**

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07 57 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style. 3 dr, manual, 5-speed hatchback, petrol, 23,000 miles, met blue 1 owner, warranteed mileage, full main dealer service history **£4,995**
06 56 RENAULT Scenic 1.9 DCi Dynamique. 5 dr, manual, estate, **diesel**, 62,000 miles, red 1 owner, full size spare wheel, abs, a/c, alloy wheels **£4,995**
03 03 BMW 316ti SE 3-dr manual hatchback, 58,000 miles, silver, space saver spare wheel, reverse parking air, abs, air con, fsh. **£4,995**
06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style. 3 dr, manual, 5 speed hatchback, petrol, 24,000 miles, met green, 2 owners, met paint, long MoT, warranteed mileage, fsh **£4,695**
97 R MERCEDES BENZ 230 SLK Convertible. 3 dr, auto, met silver, a/c, alloys, cruise **£4,795**
04 53 RENAULT Scenic 1.5 DCi Expression. 5 dr, manual, estate, **diesel**, 44,000 miles, red, full size spare wheel, abs, a/c, front armrest, lumbar support **£4,295**
03 53 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4 SE FSi 86. 5 dr, 5 speed, hatchback, 28k, met silver, ABS, a/c **£3,995**
02 02 PEUGEOT 206 Coupe Cabriolet. 80k, moonstone silver, red and black leather, superb **£3,995**
03 03 FORD Focus 1.8 TDCi Ghia. 5 dr, manual 5 speed, hatchback, diesel, 94,000 miles, met green, MOT 06/2010, space saver spare wheel, rear wiper ABS, a/c **£3,595**
03 53 CITROEN C2 1.6i 16v VTR SensoDrive. 3 dr, **auto,** 58k, silver, ABS, alloy wheels, cruise control, Immob, passenger airbag, warranteed, fsh **£3,295**
04 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Expression. 3 dr, manual, 5-speed, hatchback, petrol, 36k, met silver, new MoT on purchase, sunroof, met paint, adjustable seats **£3,295**
02 52 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.7 DTi 16v SXi. 5 dr manual, hatchback, **diesel**, 46,000 miles, black, MoT, rear wiper, alloys, c/l, warranteed mileage, fsh **£3,295**
05 05 VAUXHALL Vectra 2.0 DTi LS. 5 dr, manual, hatchback, **diesel**, 120,000 miles, red, ABS, a/c, c/l **£2,995**
03 53 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design. 5 dr, manual, hatchback, petrol, 27,000 miles, met silver, 2 owners, air con **£2,995**
03 03 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec. 5 dr, manual, hatchback, petrol, 53,000 miles, met blue, 2 owners, adjustable seats, a/c **£2,995**

SPORTS

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07 57 VAUXHALL Astra 2.0T 16v VXR. 3 dr, manual 6 speed, hatchback, petrol, 20,000 miles, met blue, 1 owner

CABRIOLET

£10,995

04 04 AUDI A4 2.5 TDi 163 Sport Cabriolet 2-dr, manual, 6 speed, **diesel,** 48,000 miles, met black, 2 owners, long MoT, full service history.

SPORTS

£4,995

03 03 BMW 316ti SE 3-dr manual hatchback, 58,000 miles, silver, space saver spare wheel, reverse parking air, abs, air con.

CONVERTIBLE

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03 03 VOLKSWAGEN Beetle 1.6 Cabriolet 2 dr, convertible, 54,000 miles, met black, heated seats, 2 owners, full service history.

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01 Y VOLVO C70 2.0 T Convertible. 2 dr, manual, petrol, met turquoise, 2 owners, ABS **£3,395**
00 W VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.6 GTi. 3 dr, manual 5 speed, 66k, met silver **£3,295**
01 PP VAUXHALL Astra 2.2 16v Convertible. 2 dr, 98k, met silver, ABS, a/c, alloy wheels **£3,295**
04 54 FIAT Punto 1.2 Active. 5 dr, 50k, blue, fsh **£3,295**
02 51 BMW 318ti Compact. 3 dr, hatchback, 68k miles, met black, heated screen, tinted glass, solid paint, climate control **£2,995**
02 02 TOYOTA Corolla Verso 1.8 VVTi T Spirit. 5 dr, manual 5 speed, estate, petrol, 120k, met silver, ABS, alloys **£2,795**
02 52 SUZUKI Grand Vitara 1.6 16v SE. 3 dr, manual, 5 speed, estate, petrol, 27,000 miles, met red, 2 owners, fsh **£2,795**
04 54 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 12v Life. 3 dr, manual, 5 speed, hatchback, petrol, 56,000 miles, met blue, ABS, c/l, fsh **£2,695**
03 53 FORD Mondeo 1.8i Mistral. 5 dr, manual, 5 speed, hatchback, petrol, 87,000 miles, met blue, MOT 5/2010, 1 owner **£2,695**
03 52 NISSAN Micra 1.2S. 3 dr, 62k, blue, abs, immobiliser, warranted mileage **£2,695**
02 51 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCi 65 Extreme. 3 dr, manual, hatch, **diesel**, 78k, met blue 12 months Tax **£2,695**
01 Y VOLVO V40 2.0 SE. 5 dr, **auto estate,** 89k,blue, 2 owners, abs, alloy wheels, cruise control **£2,595**
03 03 CITROEN Saxo 1.6i VTR 3 dr, 74k, met black, full main dealer service history **£2,495**
02 52 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6i Club. 5 dr, manual 5 speed, hatchback, petrol, 53,000 miles, met blue, 2 owners, long MOT, warranteed mileage, ABS, adjustable seats **£2,495**
03 52 MG ZS 1.8 120+. 55k, 2 owners, abs, alloys, **6 months tax,** air con, alarm **£1,895**
98 FORD Puma 1.7i 16v. 3 dr coupe, met blue, alloy wheels **£1,495**
01 Y FORD Ka 1.3i. 3 dr, manual 5 speed, hatchback, petrol, 85k, met blue, adjustable seats, MoT and Taxed, low ins **£1,395**
95 M VOLKSWAGEN Golf 2.0 GTi. 3 dr, silver, taxed, mot'd, fsh, old MoT's, alarm **£1,195**
93 L LEXUS GS 3.0. 4 dr, **auto,** leather interior and heated seats, saloon, petrol, met silver, ABS, rear electric windows **£895**
97 R FORD Fiesta 1.4 Ghia. 5-dr, 5 speed hatchback, 83,000 miles, met red, rear wiper, full size spare wheel, air con. **£895**
99 V FIESTA 1.25 Zetec. 3 dr, met silver, fsh, alloy wheels, rcl and pas. **£795**
99 T FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec. 3 dr, manual, hatchback, petrol, blue, 2 owners, alloy wheels, cheap part ex to clear, MoT till September 2010 + **6 months tax** **£795**
96 N VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.8GL. 5 dr, blue, rcl, full service history, e/w, pas, sunroof **£795**

LOW INS

£3,289

04 54 FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 5-dr, 5 speed hatchback, 50,000 miles, met blue, MoT, 2 owners, full service history, computer.

FAMILY

£2,495

02 52 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6i Club 5-dr, 5 speed hatchback, 53,000 miles, met blue, 2 owners, long MoT, abs, adjustable seats

SPORTS

£1,195

95 M VOLKSWAGEN Golf 2.0 GTi 16v 3-dr hatchback, 120,000 miles, silver, MoT June 2010, colour coding interior, fsh, folding rear seats

LOW INS

£895

97 R FORD Fiesta 1.4 Ghia. 5-dr, 5 speed hatchback, 83,000 miles, met red, rear wiper, full size spare wheel, air con.

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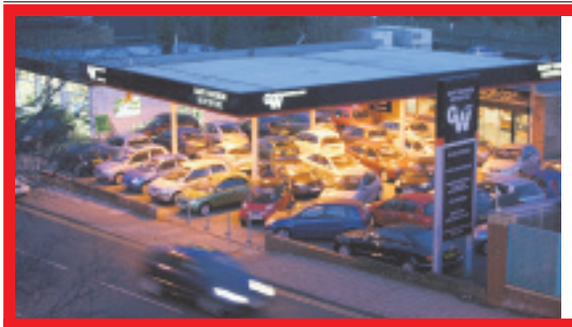

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05 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Twin Port SXi. In met silver, 48,000 miles, 1 local owner. . . . . .**REDUCED BY £300 TO £4,695**

55 MAZDA RX8 192bhp. In black, full leather trim, 47,000 miles with Bose sound system **£8,995**

04 JAGUAR S-Type 4.2 V8 Auto. In met-blue with grey leather trim, 42,000 miles, luxury motoring at **£8,995**

Y PEUGEOT 206CC 2.0. In silver, with black leather trim, low mileage local convertible . . .**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495**

06 MINI Cooper. In met blue + white, 37,000 miles, 1 owner with chilli pack and climate . .**REDUCED BY £300 TO £8,995**

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56	**BMW 335 Diesel SE Coupe Auto.** In dolphin grey with black leather trim, 26,000 miles	**£19,995**
54	**RANGE ROVER Vogue 4.4 V8.** In oslo blue, cream leather trim, 55,000 miles, sat nav, tv, zenons etc	**£18,995**
56	**RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique Convertible.** In met satin gold, low mileage example at	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £9,495**
06	**MINI Cooper.** In met blue + white, 37,000 miles, 1 owner with chilli packand climate	**REDUCED BY £300 TO £8,995**
55	**MAZDA RX8 192bhp.** In black, full leather trim, 47,000 miles with Bose sound system	**£8,995**
55	**PEUGEOT 307 2.0 CC.** In black, 19,000 miles, 4 seater, steel roof convertible at	**£8,995**
04	**JAGUAR S-Type 4.2 V8 Auto.** In met-blue with grey leather trim, 42,000 miles, luxury motoring at	**£8,995**
52	**LAND ROVER Discovery 2.5 TD5 5-dr.** In silver, low mileage example in superb condition	**£8,995**
52	**BMW 325 Ci Sport Automatic.** Met blue with beige leather, 75,000 miles, 18" alloys	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £7,995**
54	**JAGUAR X-Type 2.0 Diesel Sport.** In met steel blue with charcoal half leather trim, 74,000 miles	**£6,995**
04	**LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8S 3-dr hardback.** In light met blue, only 18,000 miles, superb throughout	**£6,995**
03	**TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi T Sport.** In smoke silver, 74,000 miles, 1 owner, upgraded alloys, fsh	**£6,995**
Y	**MERCEDES SLK 230** in silver with black leather trim, 79,000 miles, quality convertible at	**£6,995**
03	**MINI 1.6 Auto.** In black with full red leather trim, fantastic looking example	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,995**
53	**MAZDA RX8 (230)** in silver with black leather trim, fantastic value at	**£5,995**
02	**MAZDA MX5 1.8** in met silver, 53,000 miles, superb example	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,495**
52	**HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SE Auto.** In silver with black leather trim, 60,000 miles, fantastic value at	**£4,995**
04	**CITROEN 1.4 Purial.** In two tone silver over met-blue, 43,000 miles, stylish convertible	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495**
51	**AUDI A4 2.0 SE Sportsline** in silver, 71,000 miles, superb example	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495**
Y	**PEUGEOT 206CC 2.0.** In silver, with black leather trim, low mileage local convertible	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495**
54	**SUZUKI Jimny 1.3 JLX 0².** In red over silver, 21,000 miles, fun convertible	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £3,995**

SMALL, ECONOMICAL AND FAMILY CARS

08	**SMART Pulse Auto 999cc.** In black with black leather trim, 11,000 miles, under Mercedes warranty	**£6,995**
56	**SUZUKI Swift 1.5 GLX 5-dr.** In red, 32,000 miles with alloys, a/c, keyless go, very trendy example at	**£6,995**
06	**RENAULT Scenic 2.0 Dynamique.** In met blue, 22,000 miles, one owner	**£6,995**
55	**MITSUBISHI Colt 1.5 CZT 3-dr.** In ice blue met, 41,000 miles with a/c, alloys	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,995**
55	**VW Golf 1.4 FSi 5-dr.** In electric blue, superb looking car with 18" alloys and low insurance	**£6,995**
05	**VW Golf Plus 1.9 TDi Sport** In silver, 80,000 miles, 1 owner, great looking diesel at	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,995**
06	**FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCI Ghia Estate.** Black, fantastic value	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,495**
55	**PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDi SE.** In met-grey, 51,000 miles, comfortable stylish diesel at	**£6,495**
57	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr** in diablo red, 24,000 miles, superb throughout	**£6,295**
07	**PEUGEOT 107 1.0 Urban 5-dr** in silver, 23,000 miles, low insurance, low road tax	**£6,295**
56	**SUZUKI Swift 1.3 GL 5-dr** in met silver, 10.000 miles, superb throughout	**£6,295**
07	**SMART Passion Auto 699cc.** In silver over met-blue, 20,000 miles, low road tax + insurance	**£5,995**
56	**FIESTA 125 Style Climate 3-dr.** In white, 33,000 miles with navy blue ST side stripes, looks great	**£5,995**
05	**FIESTA 1.4 TDCi Ghia 5-dr.** Black with black leather trim, 49,000 miles, diesel economy, £35 road tax	**£5,695**
54	**RENAULT Megane VVTi Privilage Auto 5-dr.** In met jade with half leather tri, low mileage	**£5,495**
55	**SUZUKI Swift 1.3 GL 3-dr.** In met blue with white stripes, 47,000 miles, sporty economical hatch at	**£4,995**
55	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 3-dr.** In met black, 25,000 miles, very desirable	**£4,995**
05	**PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Quiksilver 3-dr.** 31,000 miles, sought-after limited edition model	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**
04	**FIESTA 1.4 Flame 3-dr.** In black, low mileage local car at	**£4,995**
05	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Twin Port SXi.** In met silver, 48,000 miles, 1 local owner	**REDUCED BY £300 TO £4,695**
05	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4S 5-dr.** Black, 50,000 miles, a/c, cd, etc	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495**
03	**RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression Auto** in black, 1 owner, 31,000 miles	**REDUCED BY £200 TO £4,295**
54	**CITROEN C2 1.1LX 3-dr.** In met red with cd etc, local car on offer at	**£3,995**
54	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.3 Diesel SXi Auto.** In silver, 73,000 miles	**£3,995**
04	**RENAULT Clio 1.1 Extreme 3-dr.** In met black, 39,000 miles with s/roof, e/w, c/l, cd	**£3,995**
05	**KIA Picanto 1.0 GS 5-dr** in red, 22,000 miles, low running costs	**£3,495**
03	**MAZDA 323F 1.6 GS** in electric blue, 76,000 miles, reliable hatch at	**£3,495**
05	**ROVER 25 1.4 GLi 3-dr.** In smoke silver, 50,000 miles, leather trim, alloys, a/c	**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £2,995**
53	**DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 Extra** in met blue, 45.000 miles with extras	**£2,995**
03	**FORD Ka 1.3i** in met blue, low mileage, low insurance	**£2,995**
02	**RENAULT Clio 1.6 Dynamique 3-dr.** In met grey, 72,000 miles, full spec plus climate control	**£2,995**
51	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi Auto** in black, 69,000 miles with a/c, alloys, etc	**£2,995**
04	**MG ZS 1.8 5-dr.** Trophy blue, 52,000 miles	**REDUCED BY £300 TO £2,695**
03	**DAEWOO Kallos 1.4SE 5-dr.** In met-blue, 56,000 miles, ideal family hatch	**REDUCED BY £300 TO £2,695**
Y	**NISSAN Almera 1.5E 5-dr.** in met silver, 41,000 miles, superb throughout	**£1,995**

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02 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.8 Club Automatic. 70k, FSH, air con, CD system, plush interior, rare 7 seater at

51 VW Beetle 2.0. Lady owner, FSH, alloys, air con, e/sunroof, multichanger, looks superb!

02 JAGUAR 2.5 S-Type Auto. 80k, fsh, alloys, a/c, multi cd, nice spec model

98 JAGUAR XK8 4.0 Auto Coupe. 90k, fsh, alloys, a/c, cruise, e/leather, lady owner, awsome car

05 MINI Cooper S, facelift model. 1 owner, 50k, zenons, half leather, cd system, multi function wheel, rear spoiler, stunning

Y VW Golf 1.4 S. Lady owner, s/history, full electric pack, sunroof, superb economy, low tax & ins.

06	**FORD Mondeo 2.2 TDCi Titanium Estate.** Fsh, a/c, alloys, suede/leather, multi cd, superb mpg	£6995
05	**CITROEN Picasso 2.0 HDi Desire.** 90k, a/c, cd system, plush trim, fuel computer, multi function wheel, superb MPG at	£3995
05	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Design Auto.** 45k, half leather, air con, cd system, alloys, desirable auto	£5495
56	**CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.6 SX.** Just 9k, 1 owner + demo, a/c, alloys, cd player, plush trim, huge saving from new	£4495
54	**RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique.** 47k, s/history, 1 owner, a/c, alloys, full e/pack, sports interior	£4495
54	**ROVER 25 SEi T Diesel.** 48k, a/con, alloys, cd, superb MPG, top spec	£3995
53	**RENAULT Clio 2.0 172 Sport.** Fsh, zenons, a/c, multi cd, half leather/alcantara, black metallic	£3995
03	**CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire.** 40k, 2 owners, fsh, a/c, cd system, jazzy trim, low tax & Ins, 40+mpg	£3995
03	**PEUGEOT 306 1.1 Verve.** 69k, lady owner, air con, e/windows, CD player, p/steering, only group 3 insurance	£3995
03	**RENAULT Clio 1.2 Billabong LE.** 54k, lady owner, s/roof, jazzy interior, cd system, low tax + ins	£3495
03	**KIA Collection 1.3.** Only 1 private owner, 15,000 miles, cd player, a/c, met red	£3495
03	**CITROEN Saxo 1.6 VTR.** 70k, alloys, sunroof, CD system, sports interior, sporty looks with low insurance	£2995
03	**RENAULT Megane 1.6 Expression.** 45k, lady owner, full e/pack, air con, CD system	£3195
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02	**BMW Compact 325 Ti Sport Auto.** Fsh, 65k, 18 inch alloys, full black sports leather, met silver	£6495
02	**VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 Club 7 Seater.** 70k, fsh, inc T/belt, a/c, cd player, e/pack, local MPV at	£3995
02	**CITROEN Picasso 2.0 SX HDi.** 59k, service history, a/con, cd system, fuel computer, multi-function wheel	£3995
02	**RENAULT Clio 2.0 172 Sport.** 79k, fsh, Xenons, a/c, multi cd, half leather/alcantara, superb example at	£3995
02	**FORD Focus 1.6 Chic.** 3 door, 70k, s/history, alloys, full leather, a/c, cd system, rare car	£3695
02	**RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Fidji.** 1 owner, 50k, half leather, twin e/roofs, a/c, cd player, alloys, desirable at	£3495
02	**RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Fidji.** 48k, s/history, air con, alloys, multi-disc, half leather, twin sunroofs	£2995
53	**HONDA Jazz 1.4 SE Sport Auto.** 40k, FSH, lady owner, air con, CD player, low tax & ins	£4995
51	**MERCEDES ML55 AMG Auto.** 80k, s/history, full leather, sat nav, cruise, xenons, chrome steps + bar	£8995
51	**HONDA Civic 1.4S.** 65k, FHSH, air con, cd system, full epack, group 4 ins, rare car	£2995
51	**PEUGEOT 307 1.6 GLX.** P/Steering, e/pack, upgrade alloys, a/c, cd system	£2695
51	**FORD Focus 1.4 LX 3-dr.** One owner, full e/pack, low tax & insurance, desirable at	£2695
51	**HONDA Accord 2.0 SE.** 78k, fsh, alloys, a/con, plush trim, cd sytem, super condition, ideal family car	£2795
Y	**JAGUAR 2.5 V6 X-Type.** 90k, fsh, alloys, a/c, cd system, chrome pack, tremendous value	£2995
Y	**VW Golf 1.6 SE.** FSH, lady owner, a/con, cd system, full e/pack, low insurance group	£2995
Y	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Comfort 16v.** Lady owner, 50k, s/history, low tax + ins	£2695
Y	**FIAT Punto 1.2 5-dr.** Only 40k, superb throughout in Aztec gold met. Only	£1895
X	**BMW 318 CI Coupe.** Lady owner, e/pack, c/control, alloys, multi function s/wheel	£3995
X	**LEXUS IS 200.** 84k, FSH, alloys, e/roof, air con, multi-disc, 6-speed box, half leather, superb	£3995
X	**RENAULT Clio 2.0 Sport.** 80k, leather/alcantra trim, a/con, alloys, cd system, front fogs	£2995
X	**LAND ROVER 1.8 XEi 3-dr.** Alloys, air con, sunroof, two tone leather, alloys, lovely example	£2995
X	**MGF 1.8 VVC Convertible.** Lady owner, 70k, alloys, CD system, full leather, wind break	£2995
W	**HONDA Civic 1.4S Hatch.** 90k, FSH, alloys, air con, sports interior, CD system, low tax & ins	£2395
W	**FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec. 5-dr**, 80k, alloys, a/con, e/windows, low tax & ins, ideal 1st car	£1795
W	**VAUXHALL Omega 2-litre GLS Automatic.** Very clean car, superb value in steel blue, only	£1295
T	**VOLVO C70 2.4 Auto.** Half leather, alloys, a/con, cd, hard to find at	£1995
T	**FORD Mondeo 2.0 LX Auto.** 75k, e/pack, nice car	£1395
S	**FORD Ka 1300.** 70k, pas, jazzy trim, lovely example, low tax & ins	£1695
P	**RANGE Rover 2.5 DSE Auto.** 100k, s/history, leather, cruise, alloys, e/pack, fully colour coded, BMW engineering at	£4695
N	**SAAB 93 S Convertible Auto.** leather, alloys, a/c, lady owner, nice example	£2495
N	**BMW 325 TDS Saloon.** Sensible miles, alloys, rear spoiler, air con, plush interior, performance and economy	£1995

02 BMW 325 ti Sport Compact Auto 60k, fsh, heated leather, 18" MV alloys, climate, cruise, park distance control

51 MERCEDES ML55 AMG Auto. 80k, s/history, full leather, sat nav, cruise, xenons, chrome steps + bar.

02 HONDA Civic 2.0 Type 'R' 70k, fsh, alloys, cd system, alcantara trim, 6 speed box, awesome!

03 CITROEN Saxo VTR 1.6. 74k, superb example, low ins group.

51 BMW 316 Ti Compact SE. Lady owner, service history, alloys, air con, multi-disc, cruise, reverse sensors, superb at...

03 JAGUAR X-Type 2.0 SE V6 80k, fsh, alloys, cd system, full leather, chrome pack,

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KENFIG HILL RUGBY ROUNDUP

MULES FIRSTS SWEEP THE QUINS ASIDE

KENFIG HILL FIRSTS v MAESTEG QUINS

THE weather conditions were deplorable and they suited the Quins style of play.

After early pressure they took the lead with a penalty try which was converted by outside half Gareth Lewis, but that was the last sniff they had of the Mules' line, as the Kenfig Hill pack took control of the game.

Kenfig Hill outside half Ray Evans replied with a penalty.

Second row Thomas Maund went over from a ruck after a dazzling run by Steve Shalders set up the Mules.

The only answer the Quins had to the Kenfig attacking was persistent infringements which eventually led to a yellow card.

After another run by Shalders, Ray Evans received the ball and powered his way over, converting his own try.

This gave a half time score of: Kenfig Hill 15, Maesteg Quins 7.

The Mules scored straight from the kick off through full back Scott Hancock, and scrum half Tom Briggs added to his growing reputation with a try. Evans then added a penalty.

The worse the weather got, the better the play of the Mules backs became, and back row man Steve Gillard scored a try.

Left winger Shalders completed the scoring with another mesmerising run, showing he has electric pace even in heavy conditions.

Final score was: Kenfig Hill 38, Maesteg Quins 7.

For Kenfig Hill all the forwards played particularly well but prop Gavin Jenkins was man of the match. Tom Briggs, Nicky Morgan and Steve Shalders shone in the back division.

KENFIG HILL/ CORNELLY YOUTH 16, VARDRE 0.

THE Youth played well against some stern opposition from Vardre.

Flying wing Deeke Morse and Rees Miles showed good rugby ability to score the second try. John Matthews added two penalties..

Morse and Callum Matthews had particularly good games and there was a welcome return for Owen Davies after suffering a severe leg injury.

KENFIG HILL under-8s v PENCOED

KENFIG HILL travelled to Pencoed with another large squad consisting of 21 young players.

Many other teams would have cancelled due to the pitch condition but credit to all of the youngsters for two excellent games.

First onto the field were the under-8s, captained by workmanlike Luke Tozer. A fantastic game ensued, which saw Pencoed at one point leading by three tries. It ended with the Mules fighting back, and falling just short at four tries to five.

A couple of Mules players, Connor Hill and Connor John, had their best games of the season, the latter unlucky not to record his second try of the season.

Two individual performances stood out however. Tom Watkins defence was outstanding, constantly charging into the opposition to disrupt their forward movement. Tom capped his performance with his fifth try of the season.

Offensively it was Jack Rundle, collecting a hat-trick of tries, who repeatedly broke the Pencoed defence by supporting the ball carrier and sprinting onto pop-passes for his scores.

Cameron Trehar and Dylan Pearson both showed great commitment and effort, with Kieran Tantum's silky running causing the opposition a few problems.

Calvin Gorringe, Rhys Perry, Oliver Roberts and Harry Cooper all contributed to an excellent team display from an ever-improving under-8s unit.

KENFIG HILL under-7s v PENCOED

THE under-7s, captained by the consistently improving Thomas Llewellyn, played against virtually the same Pencoed team.

The Mules played valiantly against their predominately older opposition but were unable to prevent their first loss of the season, going down three tries to one.

Being three tries down, the Mules showed their spirit with an excellent team score towards the end of the game. Ever-present Oliver Pinches' outside break was supported superbly by most of his team mates, the final pass going to Ewan Orchard, who outpaced the defence for his third score of the season.

Working especially hard in the dreadful under-foot conditions were Conor Jenkins, Mark Underhill and Jack Davies.

Their commitment to break through the opposition could not be faulted.

Joshua Jones could not be faulted either for his defensive efforts, nor could Ewan Davis or George Buckley.

It's clear the young Mules are missing their training sessions, cancelled of late due to the weather. Hopefully training will be possible again soon and they will return to winning ways next week.

CALENDAR

KENFIG HILL under-15s have produced a calendar, featuring pictures of past, present and future (current juniors) Mules teams. All money raised will go towards a tour next April.

The calendar is excellent value at £5 and is available either from the junior section or behind the bar.

GO'S

Athletic are over-powered by west Wales contenders

AFTER a long lay-off due to the autumn internationals and the atrocious November weather, this gloomy and wet December Saturday finally saw some domestic league action.

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC RFC	**7**
LLANGENNECH RFC	**29**

Due to the conditions, play was moved from the main field to the adjacent 'seconds' pitch which still proved heavy and slippery underfoot throughout.

It was not to be a happy return to league action for the Bridgend Athletic side. Llangennech had shown good form in the league before the four-week break, and they showed the home team and supporters why they were eight points above them in the league.

Solid and aggressive defence, controlled possession and astute kicking allowed them to dominate proceedings via both territory and possession. In contrast, the home team showed little composure on the ball, struggled to win possession at the set piece and lacked patience to build on the few opportunities they created.

The early exchanges were well matched, with the Athletic showing more adventure in their play but unable to make much headway against a well-organised and pressing defence.

When Llangennnech won possession, they used the driving maul to good effect, often rolling the home side back 20 or so metres at a time.

When the ball came back their fly-half Shingler was able to place long diagonal kicks behind the home defence. This allowed the visitors to exert further pressure on a misfiring home line-out.

The first score came from a driving maul that was taken from half-way into the Athletic 22. When the ball was moved wide, good tackling stifled the attack but a penalty was given away at the breakdown and Shingler kicked the goal.

Almost immediately, Llangennech were back on the attack but again good defence by Bridgend Athletic averted the danger and play moved back to mid-field.

The Athletic attempted to move slow ball and Steve Lewis's attempted chip was charged down by visiting full-back Phillips, who retained possession to gallop under the posts for a try converted by Shingler.

Llangennech were very much on top now and again good kicking and pressure led to another penalty for the visitors' fly-half. Back came Llangennech once more and from a well-rehearsed move, centre Thomas went over for an unconverted try – although eyebrows were raised that the blocking tactics of the 'dummy runners' were allowed by the referee.

The Athletic had it all to do in the second half but once again they could only make slow progress against the regimented ranks of the Llangennech defence who were willing to absorb the home attacks until mistakes were made.

At this point, the ever-competitive Chris Whitcombe and plucky Jamie Doherty were replaced by Tom Morgan and Matthew Hillman and the Athletic renewed their efforts.

Nevertheless, it was more good kicking from the visitors that turned defence into attack and another penalty kick was sent between the posts when the Athletic transgressed once more.

Llangennech continued to apply pressure, and when the Athletic kicked out of defence visiting flanker Foley caught the ball inside his own 10 metre line and surged past a number of defenders before passing inside to flying wing Davies who scorched over from 40 metres with some Athletic players questioning obstruction. The try was converted by Shingler.

For the Athletic, both props – young Matthew Norman and captain Rod Jones – were replaced by Carl Gregory and Dai Price, having given their all in the strength sapping conditions and centre Rob Coles was replaced by veteran Stuart Morris, making his return from injury.

Despite the efforts of the Athletic to gain something from the game, it was the visitors who surged back into home territory looking for their fourth try but once again determined defence held them out.

At last, the Athletic found some space and a flowing move of fully 75 metres took the ball to the Llangennech line. When Tom Morgan got the ball he shrugged off one tackle to drive over close to the posts to allow Lewis an easy conversion.

The last play of the game proved a nail-biting affair as Llangennech chased their bonus point, but a final error caused the referee to blow for no-side.

The Athletic were comprehensively outplayed by Llangennech and although no criticism could be levelled at any player for lack of effort, it was clear that they need to be more cohesive and thoughtful about the execution of their game plans.

Next week Bridgend Athletic face another tough task as they visit Narberth in the next round of the SWALEC Cup.

MARK DAVIES

Ryland's return is a plus for Pencoed

PENCOED RFC Firsts were the hosts after the match venue was switched because the BP Llandarcy pitch was unplayable.

PENCOED	**7**
BP LLANDARCY	**18**

This was a much better performance from the home side despite the defeat.

The visitors' second in the league position was not really apparent.

Pencoed will be disappointed with the two tries conceded in the first half from James Mckenna and Lee Gunnell just prior to the interval, giving BP a lead of 13-0.

Pencoed did well in the second half, and went on to score the try of the match with scrum half Joe Heatley catching his opposite number in possession, before the ball broke for centre Geoff Hobbs to show his pace, running three-quarters of the length of the pitch to score. Marc Davies added the conversion.

The visitors' second-half try came from Chris Keane.

Pencoed will look to build on their second half performance in particular, finishing the game strongly.

The big plus for Pencoed was the return of influential centre Lloyd Ryland from injury, coming through without any apparent problems.

He will now look to recapture the form which made him such a threat at this level.

Hopefully, the return of Ryland will trigger the potentially potent Pencoed back line for the rest of the season.

'Best of' book boosts cancer centre

IN a new book Rugby's Best of the Best, Welsh and international rugby stars and celebrities reveal their ultimate 'best of' lists.

From super sprinters to favourite chocolates, unforgettable films to delicious Welsh desserts, top dance tunes to dramatic dropkicks, best bands, fictional detectives, whiskies and beyond! Contributors include Shane Williams, Gareth Edwards, Jonathan Davies and JPR Williams. Alun Wyn Bevan is an experienced broadcaster and former first-class referee. Huw Evans has been photographing Welsh rugby for more than 25 years and he is the Welsh Rugby Union's official photographer.

All of the contributors have donated their time to help raise money for the Stepping Stones Appeal, which aims to fund research at Velindre Cancer Centre in Cardiff, and the authors and the publisher will donate the royalty earnings from this book to the appeal.

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